

Castro Prepares for the Pope • Death in the B.C. Mountains

CANADA'S

WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

Maclean's

JANUARY 19, 1998

**IN THE NAME
OF GREED**



**Alan Eagleson
Exposed**

ICE AGE

**The East Digs
Out from
Disaster**

**The Wrath
of El Niño**

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Maclean's This Week

JANUARY 19, 1998 VOL 111 NO 03

CANADA'S
WEEKLY
NEWSMAGAZINE

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Cover

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Days of freezing rain toppled trees and hydro lines, cutting off power to hundreds of thousands of people in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Ten people died and damage estimated at \$1 billion in Canada's most costly natural disaster.

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An embittered former ally watched in courtrooms in Boston and Toronto, Alan Eagleson, onetime spokesman of hockey, was fined \$1 million and sentenced to 38 months in jail for fraud.



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Both sides have their own agendas as Pope John Paul II makes his final visit to Cuba. In Havana, the Pope will spend time in the city's poorest neighbourhoods.



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Toronto lawyer Ian Binnie is a constitutional expert and a dark-horse candidate, says the Supreme Court of Canada.

From The Editor

Watching the nation rally



It was the week when the Liberal government topped up a campaign promise and asked for the very search and rescue helicopters that Jean Chretien denounced his predecessor for buying. It was the week that Alan Engelsen, QC, officer of the Order of Canada, member of the Hockey Hall of Fame, was declared a coronas crook. Toronto lawyer Ian Hume became a

veteran of Bosnia and Haiti who were cheered as they drove through the streets. But above all, it was the families and their friends who mattered. A disaster who took in her anxious parents, a son-in-law who literally made sure that the home fire kept burning in the front room, a neighbor with power—real power—who opened her doors to others.

It was yet another disaster that drew the



At Toronto, the Engelsen team of Helen (above, left) with Wally, 8, Alan and Nicole at Ottawa. Wallace (far right) with Geddes: a hectic week for new faces and old

supreme chance to fill a Supreme Court vacancy. And Ottawa sought to make amends for the years of abuse of native children at residential schools. But in the end, it was the week of the ice storm.

Across the country, Canadians looked on helplessly as Montserratians struggled to contain the floods that roared the locals of Surocco with out the bombing. The phone calls to the city continued into the weekend, as anxious relatives and friends from coast to coast tried to keep track of their families who were moving from house to apartment to shelters in a continual search for warmth and security. But in the end, the outside world did little. It was left to the indomitable Montserratians, who pulled together to combat the horror.

The same anxieties arose for those on the other coastlines from eastern Ontario to the Maritimes as the fiddle finger of El Nino wreaked its havoc. But it was Montreal that was the epicenter of the tragedy. There were heroes enough to fill the old Forum—a fireman who crawled into a darkened building and literally dragged a toddler back to life; brave hydro workers who braved fate to clear the lines, community workers who ran shelters, armed forces

coming together. In Vancouver, the Red Cross Society put out an appeal for blood donations to bolster supplies in Eastern Canada while BC Tel mounted a hunt for generators that could be sent to Ontario and Quebec. In Edmonton, the provincial government estimated its funeral sympathies to easterners hit by the storm. And Edmontonians pitched in to help. Troops from the Edmonton Garrison loaded 2,500 camp cots and generators onto Quebec-bound Hercules wrecks while the city's Red Cross office set up a disaster relief fund. Amidst the love and uncertainty of one of the worst natural disasters, a nation rallied.

Robert Lewis

Newsroom Notes:

Welcome to newcomers

Several new names grace our pages this week. Senior Writer Jane O'Hara, returning to Maclean's after a 10 year absence, led the team reporting on the dramatic fall of hockey icon Alan Engelsen (page 22). She was assisted by three others who also joined the staff in Toronto last week: National Business Correspondent Kimberley Noble, who followed the Engelsen money trail, and Associate Editors John Nicol and Stephanie Nolen. (Longtime Contributing Editor Stevie Cameron worked with them.)

Meanwhile, Ottawa Editor Bruce Wallace, who recently returned from a four-year posting as London bureau chief, filed the first of what will be biweekly signed pieces from the nation's capital. Wallace's look at the politics of apology appears on page 33. Senior Writer John Geddes, who joined the Ottawa bureau last month, covered the Chretien government's confessions as it struggled to rationalize its controversial helicopter purchase.

Two veteran Maclean's writers were also busy. Westinghouse Chief Andrew Phillips reported from Cuba on preparations for the Pope's visit (page 40), while National Affairs Columnist Anthony Wilson-Smith wrote this cover story on the monster ice storm that left eastern Canadians freezing in the dark.

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She travelled around the country as no First Lady ever had before, and focused our attention on the parts of it we could not or would not see. From the inner-city soup kitchens to the Appalachian coal mines and the South's most segregated communities, Eleanor Roosevelt brought her compassion and her concern to our country's most forgotten. She made us see, she made us care and, in doing so, she made this country a better place for us all.

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Polling Canada

Regarding Newfoundlanders' championship in the bedroom ("Grease place secrets," *Newfoundland CBC News*, Feb. 26/Jan. 31), the explanation for this was exposed some years ago by Nancy White on the CBC's *Sunday Morning* program. She explained that every night Canadians watch *The National* at the same time before going to bed—except in Newfoundland where it is one half hour later. Therefore, Newfoundlanders had to find an acceptable way to fill the time while waiting. Perhaps Newfoundlanders' stamina and perseverance could be used to address Canada's problems. Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard has already complained about the falling birth rate in his province. So I propose the federal government limit winter "holidays" in Quebec for Newfoundlanders. Such a program would not only solve Quebec's birth-rate problem, but also would point out to both Quebecers and Newfoundlanders the advantages of interprovincial free trade and of being united.

John Lemire
Victoria BC

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

should be addressed to:
Mailbox's Magazine Letters
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Mailbox's Magazine Letters' views and letters may be edited for space and clarity. Please supply names, addresses and daytime telephone numbers. Submissions may appear in Mailbox's electronic version.

As essential as the stereotype is to the great media, was it really necessary to picture libidinous Newfoundlanders as people who wear oilskins and rubber boots? How long do we have to suffer these indignities? Please come to Corner Brook or Labrador City or Mary's town for an enlightened glimpse of life in this part of Canada.

George Coffin
Marystown, NL A1B 3K6

I do not understand why *The Strategic Counsel's* pollster Allan George is so surprised that most Canadians identify themselves as liberal, yet also have a deep suspicion of the government ("A candidate's choice"). Clearly, this country, like all Western democracies, has become captive to the libertarian ideology. People do more want the government in their bedrooms than they do in their boardrooms. This is a great challenge to Reform and the NDP for both want government intervention in opposite spheres of the public domain. The real solution for people like me, who want government intervention in both economic and social issues, is that not only do we have no party to turn to, we also have no constituency in this country any more.

Jim Kerec C. Leck
Nelson BC

We're delighted that your 10th anniversary poll included questions about alternative health-care treatments ("Healthy options"). It's important to point out, however, one aspect that your use of the term "alternative" does not adequately, accurately or appropriately capture what it is that motivates an astounding 25 per cent to "say they would trust a herbal remedy more than a prescription from a medical doctor." That naturopathic doctors choose the term "holistic" over "alternative" or "complementary" is an indicator of how they understand and practice natural medicine in Canada.

David John Skolnik
President, The Canadian College
of Naturopathic Medicine,
Toronto ON

Holocaust gallery

In 1945, as a 14-year-old Jewish boy, I was liberated by Canadian soldiers in Holland, and therefore owe them boundless gratitude. Unfortunately, I cannot extend these

Welcome words

"*Weston speaks out*" has the tone of exposing political undercurrents around Ontario's Lt.-Gov. Hilary Weston (Opening Notes, Dec. 22). Although I originally questioned her appointment, I applaud the reasons she has made to a traditionally exclusive, male-dominated and elitist organization: the Canadian Club of Toronto. Why is the evolution of women's issues by a woman and an establishment Ontario lieutenant-governor worthy of the inclusion "embroidered in politics" when the issues are in fact societal in nature and only incidentally political? I am surprised that Mexican would find her words to be "strong," considering that they merely scratch at the surface of what many Canadians feel are their most prominent concerns. Further, her words barely touch the difficulties confronted by working women at the lower strata of Canadian society: i.e. corporations like Weston, but worst accused for pressure leaders who are brave enough to redefine those roads to social change—and for a society and news media who welcome it.

Doyle DeWolf,
Regina

seemingly this time. Barbara Aronoff's column "Controversy over a delicate matter" (Dec. 29/Jan. 5) is an ideological diatribe wrapped in the flag to explain away another "delicate matter": the veterans' names so prone to being up against. I am in agreement that the Canadian War Museum is not the place for a Holocaust gallery. My reasons, though, are different. In September, 1939, Canada joined the Allies to defeat Germany's renewed bid for world hegemony. Gave Canada's cabinet systematic refusal to help Jewish refugees to escape persecution and extermination, to claim a war against racism is misleading. In conclusion, let me suggest a suitable place for a Holocaust gallery: a Canadian museum of history, not of discrimination.

Max Vlasov,
Vancouver

Barbara Aronoff, as should be considered, a national Canadian treasure, because of all colonialists writing today, she thinks most clearly, analyzes most incisively and writes most forcefully. In her article on the dispute over the Holocaust gallery, she has articulated the views of Canadian war veterans with a simplicity and clarity that no veteran could improve upon.

2nd Lieutenant,
South Star Manned Out



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THE MAIL

Into the fire

The EH-301 helicopter fiasco is just one more example of several major and very costly blunders made by the Chrétien government since its election ("Chopper trouble," Canada, Dec. 22). Happy to see the end of the Brian Mulroney era in 1980, I was looking forward to a period of sound, honest and effective government under Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. Instead, we have seen a string of broken promises and excuses on the GST, drug policies, Pension reform and the helicopter deal, the ill-conceived furban affair and the disastrous closure of the Science Inquiry. It troubles me greatly, and I find it worrisome that there was so little public indignation. Where indeed is the outrage?

Andrew Thomas
Calgary

Profit sharing

Two firms stand out on page 1 of the Business Notes page in the Dec. 15 issue of *Merrill's*, yet nobody seems to have made the connection. First, I read that Imperial Tobacco threatened to cancel about \$50 million in sponsorship of sporting and cultural events ("Imperial's dissent"). Then, I read that profits for Canada's Big Six banks soared by an unprecedented \$2.4 billion in 1997 ("Unprecedented profits"). Any thinking person must seriously wish there were some way to tie away with tobacco company shareholders that money people have retained with considerable hardship as banks' profits went from outrageous to obscene. Well, I can think of one way for the banks to engage in some serious public relations. After all, what's a plodding \$50 million to \$2.4 billion?

Alan C. Winick
Albany, N.Y.

Nuclear reaction

It is all very well for Jean Chrétien to have *never* house his government's (alleged) commitment to confining global warming ("A new narrative," Canada, Nov. 17), but it will certainly not establish him or his liberals as environmentalists. After all, in order to sell the last two reactors, he had to lead Canada offloads of dollars taken from Canadian taxpayers. At a time when several of Ontario's reactors have had to be decommissioned for safety reasons, it would be more appropriate to look to today's new sources of energy and cancellations of reactors. Let's get our house in order first by enforcing government inspection of our reactors and by reinstating the laws passed to protect Canadians and others from nuclear accidents.

C. F. Winick
Delhi, B.C.

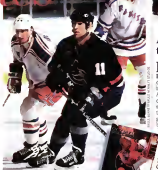
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Opening Notes

Edited by JUANMANA ROCKMAN

Was it ever in the cards?

When is a hockey hero not a hockey hero? Ask Mark Messier. There was a widespread fear that on Nov. 20 when general manager Bob Clarke did not name the Vancouver Canucks centre to the Canadian Olympic team (he's for Nagano, in February, The occasion, however, has created a hot collector's item. As part of its Olympic sponsorship, Toronto-based Imperial Oil started selling a series of hockey cards at Esso gas stations only two days after the team roster was officially unveiled. The Hockey Heroes Collection profiles players on seven international Olympic teams, including both the Canadian men's and women's teams. But to most production deadlines, Imperial had to decide who to feature before the men's team was named. "We knew that we were taking a chance on this," says Imperial spokesman Brent Carme. "We did everything that we could, including asking the NHL players' association and The Canadian



Messier (No. 11, above) his hockey heroes card: a hot collector's item

Hockey Association who they believed would be on the team." As a result, the 30-cent card is set to include Messier. It also includes overvalued New Jersey Devils defenceman Scott Niedermayer. The limited edition series is going hot, and with the promotion called for this week, Carme expects additional scribbles. For many hockey fans, Imperial has created the team that should be going for the gold.



Getzow (left), Pizzano, challenge

Aiming higher than just a peak

Most mountaineers climb for one objective: getting to the peak. But for a four-person Canadian expedition, conquering the tallest mountain in the Americas, Argentina's 6,962-m Aconcagua, is only one of their objectives. The others are not so personal—raising funds and awareness for the Children's Wish Foundation, which helps visually sick children, and celebrating the RCMP's 150th anniversary.

"We realized that the climb had to mean something more than the obvious," says 26-year-old RCMP Const. Manuel Pizzano, bounding out the newly RCMP team m/cpl. Jacques Miellet, 39, of Regina, Const. Cliff Chastelain, 28, of Pemberton, B.C., and Richard Getzow, 35, an office clerk who, like Pizzano, is from Glenora, B.C. The RCMP is helping with promotion and liaison with police in South America. "The biggest challenge is the weather and altitude," notes Pizzano of the month-long adventure that starts on Jan. 19. He emphasizes that the Ontario 1996 Canadian Expedition will conquer the peak together, or not at all. "I don't need top guys, we will travel at the speed of the slowest and safely summit Aconcagua." Proving that the Mounties always get their mountain.

Calgary high in the saddle

Which Canadian city has declared 1998 the "Year of the Cowboy"? A hint: It is already known around the world for its annual Stampede, a holiday festival of rodeo, cowboy hats in the office and square dancing in the streets. The answer: Calgary, of course. "Many might be aware of Calgary's western heritage, but they tend to localize it around the Stampede in July," says Vice of the Cowboy chairman John Galchert. "We want to show that is a cowboy place 365 days of the year." Organizers have planned some 50 events, including a golfing in May for a



cowboy novel-writing contest. Those with a backbone for cowboy food can check out the "Festive Festival" in June and July. The culinary oddities—known as Prairie systems—are harvested each spring from unsuspecting young bulls. "They're not my favorite food," acknowledges Galchert. "But I love them, especially Vancouver's trout like them." The breakfast of rodeo-champions.

Enough inquiries?

Jean Chrétien's Liberals are no fans of royal commissions and other public inquiries. The recommendation of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples would have cost Ottawa \$30 billion. The Kerner investigation inquiry repeatedly sought information the government wanted kept secret. The Somalia inquiry probed two years of open warfare between the commanders and the government. But now things are looking up for the Grits. Holme Langdon,

the bureaucrat who looks after staffing federal inquiries, is retiring after 30 years in the Privy Council Office. Langdon hired the lawyers, clerks and researchers for every commission since 1967—but who is now being replaced. "They are abolishing my position," she told Maclean's. "I've been shocked surprised." Ottawa insiders say that means the Liberals are not planning to appoint more of these inquiry commissions. An Oliver Cromwell put it when he faced a similar problem with the Rump Parliament in 1629: "Depart, I beg, and let us have done with you."

BEST-SELLERS

- FICTION**
1. The God of Small Things, Arundhati Roy (3)
 2. Beauty, by Peter, Alvin, and David (3)
 3. The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck (2)
 4. Larry's People, Carol Shields (1)
 5. The Nightingale, Hilary Mantel (132)
 6. White Teeth, Zadie Smith (3)
 7. The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck (2)
 8. The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck (2)
 9. The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck (2)
 10. The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck (2)

- NONFICTION**
1. The God of Small Things, Arundhati Roy (3)
 2. Beauty, by Peter, Alvin, and David (3)
 3. The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck (2)
 4. Larry's People, Carol Shields (1)
 5. The Nightingale, Hilary Mantel (132)
 6. White Teeth, Zadie Smith (3)
 7. The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck (2)
 8. The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck (2)
 9. The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck (2)
 10. The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck (2)

POP MOVIES

The magic endures



Twice voted the best Canadian film of all time at critics' polls, Quebec director Claude Jutra's 1971 masterpiece, When Chocolate Began, is being re-released across the country.

In a re-release version, Jutra's breakthrough tale of a boy and his underdog uncle who set out by horse-drawn sled to retrieve a box on Christmas Eve has lost none of its magic. A must-see.

To know it Canada, send according to box office receipts during the week just past (order only if you include numbers of entries/weeks charted):

1. When Chocolate Began (1971) ... \$4,332,439
2. The Grapes of Wrath (1939) ... \$2,482,289
3. The Grapes of Wrath (1939) ... \$2,482,289
4. Beauty (1998) ... \$1,550,250
5. The Grapes of Wrath (1939) ... \$1,550,250
6. The Grapes of Wrath (1939) ... \$1,550,250
7. The Grapes of Wrath (1939) ... \$1,550,250
8. The Grapes of Wrath (1939) ... \$1,550,250
9. The Grapes of Wrath (1939) ... \$1,550,250
10. The Grapes of Wrath (1939) ... \$1,550,250

Passages



DIED: Prominent lawyer and chairman emeritus of Rogers Communications Inc., John H. Rogers, 65, of his home in Toronto, of cancer. Rogers was the proprietor of Ted Rogers, president and chief executive officer of Rogers Communications Inc. (which was

Maclean's). During the Second World War, Rogers served with the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps in Canada, England and Europe, serving as a major. He had a distinguished career as a lawyer and was the founding chairman of Rogers Communications in 1960, going on to help shape the future of the Canadian cable industry.

APPOINTED: Deputy defence minister Lorne Fortin, 51, as deputy to U.S. Secretary General Kofi Annan, a decision to be officially confirmed this week. As holder of the number 2 job in the world organization, Fortin will be the highest-ranking Canadian ever at the United Nations, as it embarks on an ambitious reorganization plan.

DIED: Former pop star and U.S. congressman Sonny Bono, 62, who along with his then-wife, Cheri, passed to his death in the 1960s with a string of hit songs including I Got You (Babe and the Best Ones) and a true legacy after being elected to serve in South Lake Tahoe, Nev. Bono, who became mayor of the California resort of Palm Springs in 1988, was elected to Congress in 1994.

SENTENCED: Randi Ahmad Yusef, 29, Pakistani born, sentenced under the World Trade Center bombing that killed six and injured more than 1,000 in New York City in 1993, to 240 years in prison without parole, in Manhattan. Calling Yusef an "aspirant of evil," U.S. District Court Judge Kevin Duffy sentenced him to an additional life term for a separate plot to blow up U.S. passenger jets.

APPOINTED: Fiona Conway, 45, managing editor of CTV's current affairs program 60s, as senior producer of the news on New York City-based ABC's Good Morning America, anchored by former CBC correspondent Kevin Newman.

The Americanization of Emily

More than one million Canadians enthusiastically tuned in to the Jan. 4 premiere of the TV series Emily of New Moon—and more more so than Prince Edward Islanders. The new CBC drama, based on the novels by Island author Lucy Maud Montgomery, is set in the Prince Edward Island of the 1850s and was filmed there over the past two years. But for many viewers, interest faded to insignificance with a particular gift. During a school house scene, when Emily and her classmates sing an alphabet song, they pronounce the letter Z in the American style: "zee." Terry Pratt, a linguist at the University of Prince Edward Island in

Charlottetown, says he was outraged. Not only is that pronunciation offensive to all native Canadians, he says, but it is also an anachronism. The students of that era received a British education, he says, and simply would never have heard "zee." Pratt says he doesn't understand how the show's producers let the mistake slip in—unless they had the U.S. market in mind. "They should have 'zed' in there," he adds, "and if Americans have to scratch their heads, that's OK." Although the 25-part series has been sold in more than 15 countries, the United States is not yet one of them. Bill Neave, a spokesman for Salter Street Films in Halifax, which co-produces the series with CIVI-TV, says they may correct the error in future broadcasts. Wincing cheer Ps, Qs—and Zs.



Feminist moments

In her new anthology, *Circle—Recovering Feminism*, Toronto poet Lynn Crosbie has collected the writings of a diverse group of women—including Egyptian scholar Nawal El-Saadawi, Hollywood sex symbol Bette Davis, and Toronto journalist and activist Jane Calverton—to describe the moment that turned the feminist to the political.



Blackout-patched Montreal from Mount Royal, a downed transmission tower near Trois-Rivières, Que. (below): 'nothing prepares you for this'



ICE AGE

An unremitting storm leaves millions without power

BY ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH

What will it be like to live life amidst the worst ice storms in Canada's recent history? For those not among the millions in Quebec, Ontario and Atlantic Canada experiencing things firsthand last week, consider the MacDougal family. When the first ice storm hit Montreal on Jan. 5, causing widespread power outages, 71-year-old Margaret, a widow, spent a night alone in her chilly, disturbed home in the Notre-Dame-de-Grace area. The next day, she visited a nearby daughter, 32-year-old Patricia—only to have her power fail. The two women and Patricia's family then considered visiting another sister, Marilyn. But her power was also out, so Margaret returned to her still-dark home. Then, Margaret's son, Allen, urged her to stay with him in Ottawa—

but all trains in and out of the two cities were cancelled, and roads closed. Meanwhile, Allen, his wife, Lori, and their three young sons holed time, neighborhood boys whose own homes were without power. Allen, a 40-year-old director of purchasing at Bell Canada, dug out the backyard gas barbecue and used it to heat drinks while Lori made endless rounds of sandwiches. "I thought as a Canadian, I'd seen everything winter can throw at you," sighed an exhausted Allen. "But nothing prepares you for this."

In a country blessedly untouched by war, the scenes in Montreal, Ottawa and communities from Kingston, Ont., to Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley sometimes resembled battle zones—although in reality, of course, they were considerably less dangerous. But as the major cities declared official states of emergency in Montreal, an eerie calm hung over the downtown area as almost all stores and businesses shut down. Montrealers were advised to ration their use of

water and at one point police posted bilingual notices across the city warning residents to hold water for at least five minutes before drinking because one of the city's two filtration plants had shut down.

Major hospitals lost their primary power, traffic lights failed, the Metro (subway system) was closed, radio and television stations lost their broadcast signals, and some grocery stores reported panic buying of supplies—even as banks closed and banking machines short-circuited, depriving many people of the money needed to buy goods. At the elegant Five Seasons grocery store in affluent Westmount, there were so many would-be buyers that the manager only allowed people to live at a time. As Canadian Forces personnel rounded snow-affected areas to offer help, they found pitch-black, silent streets, makeshift rescue centres and soup kitchens, and devastated land scapes littered with ruined automobiles and homes.

Those were some of the consequences as millions of Canadians



It will take weeks to restore all the power

fought valiantly against a quirky, vengeful Mother Nature who pelted them with valleys of ice pellets, rain and snow supported by gusting winds, for days on end. In statistical terms, the first day of the storm saw about 30 mm of rain dumped on the Montreal area—the highest total since the 31.5 mm of Feb. 25, 1961, the last week's storm for that. The blizzard of 1961 became a continued unkindness through the end of the week—also causing accelerated damage in rural areas (page 18). A Via Rail train carrying about 150 passengers from Ottawa took more than 18 hours to reach Toronto because of fallen trees blocking the track and other delays. By week's end, authorities were attributing 16 deaths in Ontario and Quebec

to the storm, more than four million people were living without power and the economic impact was likely over \$4 billion. The Insurance Board of Canada estimated that damages eligible for claims could exceed \$500 billion—the highest total for any natural disaster in the industry's history, including last year's massive Red River flood. Hydro-Quebec officials said that it would take weeks before all areas of its province have power restored.

The Atlantic provinces and the northwestern United States fell victim to the same weather system, although they were spared some of its worst effects. Almost 18,000 New Brunswick houses and businesses, mostly in Saint John and the sea-side town of St. Andrews, lost electricity—many facing the prospect of a week or without power in a fresh round of freezing rain and ice pellets pounded the area

Monte declared a state of emergency and 56,000 homes in New Hampshire were without power. In fact, the troubles were far from over in many regions enduring the storm. Environment Canada officials expected inclement, uneven weather to continue into the middle of this week, causing further problems and delays in recovery efforts. A headline in the Montreal newspaper *Le Presse* on Friday warned up the situation succinctly: "It's hell!"

How could all that devastation happen in a nation whose residents take perverse pride in their ability to protect themselves from the elements? The answer, according to meteorologists, lies in a freakish



Ottawa firemen evacuate a woman; military trucks near the capital (below); candle-light song in Montreal (opposite); cuts

yo-yo combination of warm and cold air layers that ultimately resulted freezing rain. "This is particularly unusual," said Bill Horrocks, an Environment Canada meteorologist 35 and some other meteorologists believe there is a link to El Niño, the periodic climatic effect that originates in the Pacific Ocean (page 17). El Niño has taken the blame in a spate of unusual weather conditions, ranging from a December heat wave in Western Canada to torrents of rain in central Ontario and a series of avalanches in British Columbia last week that killed nine people (page 20).

Predictably, some finger-pointing was also stirred in authority figures. In Quebec, one of those was Premier Lucien Bouchard, who came under later criticism on Mon-

tréal itself shows because he did not request federal government assistance until almost 72 hours after the storm began. Bouchard, whose own home in the Montreal area municipality of Outremont was blacked out, delayed his planned departure on a Trans Canada economic mission to Latin America in order to averse salvage efforts. (Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Ontario's Mike Harris did the same, staying behind as the province left on Sunday.) Others blamed Hydro-Quebec for its inability to either retrofit or restore power quickly. In fact, the power municipality's repair technicians worked, on average, 16 hours a day, and the company quickly called in help from hydro crews in New England. But restoring power, said Hydro-Quebec chairman André Gauthier, was "not a matter of hours—it's a matter of days."

And in eastern Ontario, conditions were little better. In Ottawa, the remnants of dozens of devastated trees—many of them over 100 years old—littered the houses, upstate Quebec area. Newly elected Mayor Jim Watson, who jokingly called the ordeal his "baggage by air," said he had ordered municipal employees to take every step possible to provide assistance, and worried about the cost later. "We can learn how to pay for a later war," he said. "This there's no doubt it will be a huge expense. Our communities were equally hard hit. In neighboring Kanata, 30 km further up the Ottawa Valley, the fire department—made up of a mix of full-time members and volunteers—received six times its normal volume of calls, and all members were called in to work overtime. In Rockville, a municipality of 22,000 further south, trees, streets, fire hydrants and houses were buried beneath a crusty, thick layer of black ice, and all businesses closed.

There were stellar experiences throughout eastern Ontario. The city of Kingston, population 93,000, declared its first-ever state of emergency after a blackout hit 80 per cent of the downtown area, including the two major hospitals. But repair crews co-ordinated by about a dozen employees of the city's public utilities department managed to restore power to about three-quarters of the affected area within 36 hours. In the meantime, the local business community quickly sold out of candles, batteries and propane—and some students at Queen's University put those supplies to good use. Twenty-one-year-old Heather Harding, who shares a house with two female and three male friends, and they kept warm with "candles and everyone sleeping in one room." An other student, Matt Barber, 23, and he and his six roommates found another solution. "There was an old heater in the attic, so we hooked it up and burned it in the fireplace," he said. "We were cooked dinner over it."

Unlike Quebec, Ontario's major population areas—around Toronto, Hamilton and surrounding suburbs—were not affected. As a result, Premier Harris was able to quickly divert rescue crews and equipment from other parts of the province to those that needed them.

One of the greatest reasons of the ongoing storm was that, even as it devastated trees and landscape, it also produced a terrible beauty. On Parliament Hill in Ottawa, the trees glimmered and lit against the starry glowing backdrop of the Ottawa River. But a closer look at the trees revealed that most of their branches had been snapped and rained so that many will not survive. There was a similar scene in Montreal on the heavily treed eastern side of the city's famed Mount Royal. Although the precise extent of damage was not known, a city official estimated that as many as 25 per cent of the trees may be lost.

In fact, as bad as the damage and difficulties



were elsewhere, there was no doubt that Montreal contained the epitome of the troubles. In some areas, the devastation wrought on the landscape will take decades to correct. Perhaps the most hard-hit area was Montreal's South Shore, where more than 300,000 people were without power for days, and forced to scramble for shelter elsewhere. On one block in the municipality of St-Laurent, almost everyone was evacuated after heavy winds and ice brought power lines down and knocked down scores of branches from maple trees. At one point, the only residents left on the deserted strip were Richard Gauthier, a 44-year-old general contractor, and his family. They used a generator to power their air furnace, says Gauthier. "It's disastrous—few never seen anything like this."

That was a common refrain. In St-Laurent's neighbor Montclair, Achille wanted to inspect her house—which she tentatively abandoned in favor of a municipal shelter—she discovered that a much-beloved 80-year-old maple tree on her front lawn had been removed by the storm. "Look," she said wistfully, "at what is left of it." Predictably, the elderly and infirm faced the greatest difficulty. In St-Laurent, 82-year-old Rose volunteers behind residential services homes into a local cafeteria equipped with many cots. One room was filled with two dozen patients suffering from Alzheimer's disease. They sat in rows. "I said, 'Claude, Mom, the owner of the seniors' home. With volunteers supplying coffee and medication, some, healthy seniors faced better. "We're well off," said 81-year-old Yvette Jolani, who marked her third day in the shelter with a spaghetti dinner.

But neither age nor adversity could judge some people from the places where they felt most comfortable. In Montreal West, 82-year-old Helen Webb sat out the storm in her home, despite a lack of power and temperatures inside of no more than 4°C. She explained cheerfully that she spent her nights in bed during bad winters, with socks, running slippers, coat and hat under her wool blankets. Although her winter season for staying at home was over, she said her neighbors would freeze and explode if she was not there to oversee them, she added that the experience was "almost like a picnic," with neighbors talking late nightly for drinks and barbecued steaks.

In fact, Montrealers for the most part greeted the storm with a mixture of devotion and calm acceptance. Unlike Montreal's neighbor Quebec in Montreal—which some residents celebrated victory with unbecomingly displays of rioting and looting—the storm seemed to bring

Strapped by the poles in Groulx, Que., near Ottawa: huge expense



Algonquin street scene: both ways downtown hospitals blocked out

out the best in many people, and compassion. The downtown Ritz-Carlton Hotel, the venerable haunt of the city's blue bloods, stayed mostly empty, but more than half its 800 beds transformed two of its largest suites into children's centres. On the downtown number 34 bus route on Sherbrooke Street West, one of the city's famously busy drivers shifted his vehicle to a halt and rushed out to help a young woman struggling with a baby carriage. Community groups and centres across the city were inundated with calls from volunteers offering to do everything from providing food to cooking scrambled eggs and bacon at shelters for the temporarily displaced.

But the most heart-wrenching incident that befell a Montrealer that night whose life was saved by the remarkable cool of a winter Montrealer. After a major electrical fire broke out in the Ville LaSalle home of Malika Nassar, she could not find her baby, Jasmine, in the smoke. Sam Marash, a 40-year-old firefighter, fought through the smoke on hands and knees until he found the girl, who was not breathing. He carried her outside and administered artificial resuscitation—which was successful. Jasmine is expected to completely recover.

Other areas outside the city also felt the storm's wrath. Bill Stevenson, whose 800-hectare farm at Franklin Centre south of Montreal, was left with piles of broken branches that stopped off his 18-mph maple runs. "It's nuts, what can we do?" said Stevenson, 56, whose grandfather had bought the farm in 1904. He saw how the enormous task of clearing the massive amounts of debris so he could get his maple runs to start again has been in late February.

At the same time, some residents took themselves comforted by the lack of basic survival questions that might seem more necessary for Arctic residents than citizens of modern cities. News stories in Montreal's *Gazette* and the *Ottawa Citizen* offered answers to such frequently asked queries as whether it is safe to sleep in an attic car (answer: no, because of the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning—which killed at least one person last week) and whether to cook food on a propane stove (replace propane: perhaps all night, if great outdoor is exercise fit). And almost every lead of community facility that could be turned into a shelter was pressed into use, ranging from outdoor clubs and shopping malls to libraries, hockey arenas and fitness centres.

In Saint John, emergency shelters were set up to help

those forced from their homes. While the streets remained open to traffic, pedestrians had to step gingerly past fallen trees that had shorted out power lines. "It looks like a war zone in some spots," Saint John Mayor or Shirley McNeilly said last Friday. Bill McKelvey, town manager of St. Andrew's, described a similar scene. A local seniors' complex was without power and heat for a 14-hour stretch overnight Thursday. "The streets are a mess," McKelvey said. "There are in various states of damage, lots with ice, drooping over houses, power lines and roads. It's not a pretty sight."

In the short term, the storm had at least one beneficial effect in Montreal, people accustomed to heckling over language, politics and the ever-present question of Quebec's constitutional future suddenly found themselves united against a common foe. "These days," said Mark LaRocque, a 43-year-old Montreal area grocery store employee, "you spend your time thinking about how you can help each other, and you forget about all the other stuff."

But for LaRocque and others affected by the storm, enough was enough. "For a day or so, this is one big adventure," he said. "By the second day it's less so, and after five days—well, you just want to tell it all to stop." Similarly, Allan MacDonald, in his Ottawa home, surveyed a large room filled by a dozen boisterous young boys and raised his eyes to the ceiling. "These kids," he sighed again, "would do anything to have their adventure continue. Me, I would do anything not to make this rain and snow stay." But laughs for a while, boys and adults alike. But the calm event is the longest on record. Montrealers in the tropical suburbs Pacific in recent weeks measured up to 6°C above normal, notes Shabbar, making this El Niño the strongest since scientists began studying the phenomenon. "Certainly, El Niño are changing," says Phillips, "and maybe it's because we're warmed up the world."

For BRIAN BURGEMAN in Miramichi, BRUNO BRUNSWELL in New Brunswick, LOUIE FISHER in Ottawa, ALAN ROSS in Kingston and DAVIDE BORGESANA and DARYL MORGAN in Toronto

BLAME IT ON EL NINO

Since early last summer, the notorious climatic event known as El Niño has been wreaking havoc with the world's weather, sending drought and snow storms tearing across the globe. In North America, the weather has been cold and snowy to normally being. Mexico and parts of Central America the drought and rain of playing golf and battling brush fires in December. El Niños arrive every two to seven years, when a buildup of warm water from the western Pacific lodges off the western coast of South America and begins altering global weather in ways that scientists do not always understand. The phenomenon makes its influence felt in North America by driving the jet stream—the powerful current that normally carries warm, humid air across the continent from west to east along a line that roughly follows the Canada-United States border—into northern and southern streams. Until about Jan. 7, the split jet stream bedeviled freshy warm weather on Western Canada. And while not all experts agree, some climatologists think El Niño had a hand in the ice storm that devastated parts of Eastern Canada last week. "I think," says David Phillips, a Toronto-based senior climatologist for Environment Canada, "that there is an El Niño signature here. We're seeing a hardening in the course of Canadian winters. St. John's, Nfld., gets an average of 148 hours of freezing precipitation every year. But usually, episodes of freezing rain last for only a few hours at a time. What makes this month's event so unusual was that it went on for so long. The buildup of conditions necessary for such an ice storm began in December, when cold air from the northeast flowed into the Ottawa and St. Lawrence river valleys. It was still there this month when a steady stream of warm air from the Gulf of Mexico began peering north along the southern edge of the Appalachian Mountains. The warm air began to displace the icy air in the river valleys, the flow from the Gulf turned a layer above it—and the stage was set for disaster. As rain fell from the warm layer into the colder air below, it was chilled into super-cooled droplets

that sprang out to form a clear, frosted glass over everything it touched. "It's hard and very adhesive," notes Phillips, "and it sticks as the droplets continue to form." What role did El Niño play in all this? "We don't know if the ice storm was connected to El Niño," says Pierre Pomeroy, an Environment Canada meteorologist in Montreal. "There are just too many factors involved to be certain." But Anne Shabbar, another federal climatologist in Toronto, believes that the southern leg of the jet stream, curving through the southeastern United States—where it caused massive flooding in some states—and then turning north, played a key role in transporting warm, moist air into Canada. "It was a real help year," says Shabbar, "the jet stream would not be that far south."

Another question that climatologists experts is just how global warming caused by the buildup of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere may be leading to bigger and more disruptive El Niños. According to U.S. officials, last year was the planet's warmest on record, and as the globe heats up, the periodic flows of warm Pacific water have been growing stronger and more prolonged. El Niños in the past have usually peaked around Christmas—and accordingly were named after the Christ child by Peruvian fishermen. But the current event is the longest on record. Moscow's temperatures in the tropical suburbs Pacific in recent weeks measured up to 6°C above normal, notes Shabbar, making this El Niño the strongest since scientists began studying the phenomenon. "Certainly, El Niño are changing," says Phillips, "and maybe it's because we're warmed up the world."

MARK ANCHOLS

ICE STORM '98: The worst-hit areas



key role in transporting warm, moist air into Canada. "It was a real help year," says Shabbar, "the jet stream would not be that far south."

Havoc on the farm

Facing a rural disaster

Sharley Fulton-Deago trudged up the hill through frozen snow, scuffed and battered. She did not have to wait long. Every few seconds a crack—sharp as a rifle shot—echoed across her 180-hectare sugar bush near Pukaskum, some 60 km west of Ottawa. Sometimes the sounds came in rapid succession. Every so often, there was a pause, then a low rumble, which meant another one of her big 150-year-old sugar maples had just shattered and fallen.

"This is hard on me," she said, bending to pet her seven-year-old black Lab, Benson. "Even if this was not my livelihood, it would be like standing here watching the death of an old friend."

In a way it was. She is the fourth generation of her family to make a good living from the maple forests that help make surrounding Lacan County the maple syrup capital of Ontario. Recently, she and her husband, George, brought their daughter, Lorraine, 24, into the family operation. They have also been thinking about expanding the business to make room for son Scott, 25. But that was before last week, which ended with her standing under an aluminum sky, surveying the wreckage that the storm had made of their business—and lives. "We've been downsized for life," Fulton-Deago muttered.

She has plenty of company. While urban centres afflicted by last week's storm recovered most of the attention, rich agricultural areas in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia were hard hit. Dairy farmers, left without power, frantically shared generators to run milking machines or watched milk dry up in the udders of their cows. Quebec's maple syrup producers, whose \$100-million industry accounts for 70 per cent of the world supply, were among the hardest hit. "In some cases, we've gotten calls from producers whose apple groves have been completely destroyed," said Charles Félix, Ross, secretary general of the Quebec Maple Syrup Producers' Federation, which represents 20,000 members. "Damage is in the millions of dollars, that's for sure." In Ontario, first reports from the \$30-million-a-year maple syrup industry were equally troubling. "What we are hearing is that a lot of trees have been destroyed," said Ken McGee, secretary treasurer of the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers' Association.

Technically, Pukaskum was not hit as hard as some areas to the east. But at the Fulton operation, known as the Pukaskum House & Sugar Bush, it was impossible to tell. The family was expecting the maple sap



Fulton-Deago with Benson: 'Like watching the death of an old friend'

to flow in February, earlier than usual, due to warm temperatures in December. Ideally, early January should have seen them checking their 6,300 tree taps and the 56 km of plastic pipeline that carries sap into an evaporator, which then turns it into maple syrup.

Last week was anything but ideal. The steady rain of broken branches made it too dangerous to even let Benson go for a run in the woods. So the family was left at home, surveying the cost, almost apocalyptic scene. Instead of sap, 150-year-old maples exhaled overhead, the skyline was littered with jagged tree tops splintered by the lightning. As for the younger trees, they sagged like willows, their sap branches reaching the crustal snow on the ground.

The financial fallout is incalculable. Fulton-Deago and her family own a plumbing business and can probably still count on the 25,000 people who visit every year to eat at the restaurant, go on hay rides or take a tour of their operation. Yet maple syrup will always be at the core of their enterprise. It takes 40 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of maple syrup, which normally retails for about \$45. That sort of ratio was due when the Fulton sugar bush was yielding its usual 600 to 1,800 gallons-a-year of syrup. Now, there is no telling the extent of the devastation.

All Fulton-Deago now knows with certainty is that the destruction is not covered by crop insurance—and that it takes 90 to 150 years to grow a sap-producing maple from seed. "My children will be in their 60s before we will be able to rebuild our bush," said Fulton-Deago. As she spoke, pellets of freezing rain began to fall again. And somewhere, off among the acres of trees that have been hit for nearly 150 years, another maple fell.

JOHN DEMISTO in Pukaskum with DAN HAYNES/ESPRESSO in Toronto

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In the blink of an eye

BY CHRIS WOOD

For more than a decade, Larry Bosch has been making half a dozen trips each winter from his home in Meriwine B.C. to the narrows of the Skeena River, south of Sparwood, B.C., down by the entrance of anorexia lake in the rugged mountain wilderness. And at first, the solo musher's excursions on Jan. 2 seemed no different from the rest. Along with five companions, each on their own machine, Bosch, 52, started through powdery, dry snow on the 900-m climb to the shores of Elliott Lake. It was on the way back down that things began to go wrong. Friends started waving frantically from the bottom of the slope, and he instinctively looked behind him. "It looked like a pile of snow about a foot thick, coming down," he recalls. "No big deal." But within seconds, a torrent of flowing snow caught up with Bosch's sled, enveloping him in eerie darkness. "There was so much snow you couldn't see your hands on the handbrake. It ripped the windshield off my sled. It was sucking my breath out!" The terrible darkness lasted only moments. But when it was over, two of Bosch's five companions had vanished.

Bosch and his three remaining friends quickly found and retrieved one of the dead snowmobilers. But it would be 90 minutes before they found Maurice Perrin, 38. Even though he was as experienced a snowmobiler who had dug others out of avalanches, Perrin alone among the party was not wearing an emergency locator beacon that day. By then, he was dead—one of nine people who died under avalanches in 1986, often with a rash of tragedies in the southern B.C. Interior. On the same day that Perrin died, other avalanches snuffed out the lives of two downhill skiers near New Denver, about 500 km east of Vancouver, and buried a group of six cross-country skiers in Kananish Glacier Park, just north of Nelson. At least half a dozen other snowmobilers in the same 24-hour period produced close calls for as many more alone adventurers. Experts say the spate of tragedies reflected the convergence of bad timing, on usual weather patterns at least partly caused



Rescue officials use strategy (top) to recover a dead skier, dangerous conditions

by El Niño, and a growing number of winter sports enthusiasts. "This danger was expected," said Evan Manners, manager of the Canadian Avalanche Centre in Revelstoke.

The tragedies were all the more disturbing because most of the victims were experienced skiers in the outdoors. Dr. Robert Desrois, 38, a 36-year-old avalancheologist who was among the six skiers who died at Kananish Glacier Park, was a veteran mountaineer who had taken avalanche safety courses. "Robert was extremely cautious and knowledgeable," said one grieving friend, Bruce Fairley. "He was dependable and had good judgment." Another victim in the same vicinity, Lisa Nichols, 21, had been a ski patroller and mountain climber and had hopes of becoming a backcountry guide.

Added to the deaths in November and December, the accidents on Jan. 2 bring the total number of fatalities for the 1985/1986 season to 14 so far—compared with the

1994's average of 10 deaths a year. But experts say the province's overall avalanche risk has not been abnormally severe this season. In fact, on the most closely monitored avalanche terrain in the country—the 50-km Rogers Pass between Revelstoke and Golden—avalanche activity this winter has been only "30 to 50 per cent of average," says David Spangenberg, manager of avalanche control for Parks Canada, which is responsible for the Pass.

But, in the closing weeks of 1985 and the first few days of 1986, several factors conspired to escalate the danger to critical proportions in the areas where the tragedies occurred. One was a series of weather patterns created by the El Niño phenomenon—a huge body of warm water in the Pacific Ocean that disrupts the world's weather patterns every

two to seven years. "El Niño tends to make more precipitation occur as rain rather than snow," notes the Avalanche Centre's Manners. "That produced less snow on the ground in November." Then, in December, El Niño caused a deterioration of the usual westward path of the high altitude jet stream, keeping its course through Alaska rather than across southern British Columbia. As a result, much of the southwestern Interior basked in clear, dry air during most of December, further limiting the depth of the snowpack and encouraging the creation of light, feathery frost crystals on the surface.

Finally in late December, a layer of warm, moist air from the Pacific blasted the mountains, dumping as much as 50 cm of rain, heavy snow on slopes in the last 48 hours of 1985.

Desrois, pediatrician Carme Fitzsimons, his wife of barely a month, and four companions, had won a lottery for a week-long stay at Silver Spray Cabin, a lodge high on Mount Woodbury in the Kananish Glacier Park, the retreat as so popular with backcountry skiers that only a quarter of those who apply to rent it are able to do so. On Dec. 27, Desrois and Fitzsimons, with friends George Patrick Van Blarcom, Geoffrey Lucif, Scott Bradley and Van Blarcom's girlfriend Mary Cowan, were taken by helicopter to the cabin. With them was Lisa Nichols, a paid camp attendant. On Jan. 2, despite published warnings of a high avalanche risk, all but Fitzsimons set out for a day of cross-country skiing. When the party did not return by dusk, Fitzsimons used a radio to call for help. Darkness and continuing heavy snow hampered search efforts, however.

A series of avalanches takes the lives of nine outdoor enthusiasts



Falling on top of the unstable layers of earlier snow and frost, the wet snow created an effect that Manners fears is placing several sheets of plywood over gravel on a steeply pitched roof. By the time that Desrois, Perrin and the other victims set out for a day of skiing and snowmobiling on Jan. 2, "the snowpack was very close to threshold level," says Manners. "The weight of a person, or a snowmobile was enough to cause an avalanche."

For Desrois and his party, the sequence of events was a tragic reversal of what had initially seemed like a lucky break. Along with

and it was not until Jan. 8 that the last of six victims' bodies was retrieved.

At the time Fitzsimons placed her radio call, other avalanches had already claimed three more victims. At about 1:30 p.m. the same day, seven 50 km west of the Silver Spray Cabin, Nance Jewett, 27, and Simon Lewis, 38, had just come to the end of a downhill ski run through remote terrain when an avalanche poured over them. Others in the party of eight located the two buried skiers within 15 minutes, but efforts to rescue them failed. The avalanche that claimed Perrin swept down about three hours later.

Despite the horrendous start to the year, avalanche experts say there is little reason to expect such extensive hazards to persist. To the contrary, snowpacks are likely to settle and stabilize over the weeks ahead in most avalanche-prone areas. That said, Bruce Hendry, who teaches wilderness leadership skills at the University of Calgary's faculty of landscape—and who himself survived being buried in an avalanche in April, 1985—predicts that the growing popularity of backcountry recreation will produce a larger number of avalanche victims in the future. "It's like traffic accidents," says Hendry. "If more people go on the road, you're going to get more accidents. With snowmobiles, you can get into avalanche terrain very quickly now."

At the same time, the nine deaths underscored the deadly power of a phenomenon that is as ever-present winter danger as much of British Columbia. Avalanches, which are sometimes triggered by a fireball of a second, can travel at up to 180 km an hour, with sufficient force to knock a bright train off its rails. The snow torrent that claimed Perrin, says Bosch, punched straight through the ice covering Elliott Lake. "It threw slides of ice 30 inches thick and the size of a small car through the air," Bosch said. The most deadly avalanche on record in Canada were two slides that each claimed 80 lives, at Rogers Pass in 1910 and at Deyo, near the Yukon border, in 1896.

For victims, quick rescue is critical. Studies have shown that almost all avalanche victims die within the first 30 minutes after they are buried. "Past 30 minutes," says Manners, "survival rates drop off quite quickly." Like other experts, he recommends that skiers, snowmobilers and ice climbers who intend to travel in avalanche country take safety courses and carry three crucial items of equipment: a shovel, a collapsible saw probe and an emergency locator beacon which costs about \$200. Given that few avalanche victims survive long enough for professional search and rescue teams to find them, Manners notes: "Your only hope of surviving back is for every member of your party to carry these three articles."

As with other types of deadly accidents, however, a better course is to avoid avalanches entirely. Manners agrees that few wilderness travellers take advantage of risk bulletin that the Canadian Avalanche Centre produces twice weekly during the winter, available at most park offices in avalanche country and on the Internet at www.avalanche.org. Subscribing though, most of those who died on Jan. 2 appear to have been aware of that advice. They did say—by a measure of hardscrabble lives in the face of nature.

Rob DAVY/ENR in Toronto

As many former players cheer, Alagleson goes to jail

IN THE NAME OF GREED

BY JANE O'HARA

"Here's the son of a bitch now!" The words leaked like acid mife from Bobby Orr's mouth as he strained to watch Alan Eagleson, once his friend and agent, now his despised enemy, enter Courtroom 3 in Boston's Federal Court on Jan. 6. Orr, the Boston Bruins legend, was one of about 30 former National Hockey League players who slipped their shoes, put on their best suits and flew from all over North America to get a misdeed sent at the trial that would bring down the man they once considered a second father.

They sat shoulder-to-shoulder on the public benches, the parents and the grandsons, a phalanx of old power lulled into the belief that they had been robbed by the man they had entrusted with their financial affairs when he headed the National Hockey League Players' Association from 1987 to 1993. They all had their stories of betrayal, of how they had been abused and tricked by the Eagle, dripped out of money and made to feel like alphas when they questioned his command. They all wondered inside when this soft-spoken godfather of hockey headed into the seclude Boston courtroom with his typical brusqueness, as though he was late for nothing more important than a tennis game. But no one hated him more than Orr, who feels personally responsible. Part is Orr, the gifted blond defenseman, who became the first NHL superstar ever to hire an agent when he enlisted Eagleson's services to negotiate his contract with the Bruins in 1986. That started the chain of events that would oust Al. Alan Eagleson from his status as an unknown Toronto lawyer to a position of power, wealth and fame, the friend of prime ministers and Supreme Court justices, whose reach into the top echelons of the Canadian Establishment never exceeded his grasp.

Many of the former players in Courtroom 3 never made big money. They now work in construction or sell sports goods. But back then, when Eagleson helped organize the 1972 Canada U.S.S.R. Summit series and the Canada Cup tournaments that followed, he assured the players that if they completed international duty, did their duty to their game and their country—even if they met, played for free and playing hurt as many did—the money earned would build big, big pensions that would take care of them for the rest of their lives.

Orr, who played with knees so damaged that they required 30 operations watched intently as Judge Nathaniel Gordon looked down



No agonies exact
misdeeds Eagleson
to court in Boston:
a very light sentence

at Eagleson's rattling face. He asked the Canadian how he pleaded to the first felony count involving stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars from international hockey that was earmarked for first players' pension fund.

"Guilty," said Eagleson, almost too quickly and matter-of-factly, as though trying to beat the buzzer on jeopardy.

To the second charge "Guilty."

To the third "Guilty."

At that, the square-jawed face of former Bruins right-winger Terry O'Reilly crinkled into a big smile. And former Toronto Maple Leafs

defenceman Carl Brewer, who had spent the past 25 years trying to find the money Eagleson had stolen from the players over the years, started crying. But Orr remained impassive. And when court was adjourned, he limped into the Boston rain, refusing to say a word. "Bobby keeps so hard," said his longtime friend, star defenceman Brent Fyfe. "Once he wins any who brought Al in. And he's the guy who personally took the most."

The next day, the 64-year-old Eagleson pleaded guilty to another three charges of fraud in a Toronto courtroom. Again, the room was filled to capacity, not with hockey players, but with co-



Orr leads several former NHLers into U.S. Federal Court in Boston for Eagleson's sentencing; will they ever get their money back?

ronary seekers who came to see the Canadian hockey icon brought down. Watching from the second row of the public gallery was Nancy, his wife of 37 years, wearing widow's black, her white hair cut short, her face showing the strain of the two-year investigation into her husband's affairs. And there in spent were many of the rich and politically powerful men that Eagleson had cultivated over the years, some with gifts, advice tickets and hockey jerseys. Thirty prominent people—from hockey, politics, the media, even the church—most of whom did not know he was negotiating a plea bargain that would see him plead guilty, but sent glowing letters that were read into the public record, lauding him for being a good friend and a great family man of the highest integrity. "We have often talked about shared values," wrote former Liberal prime minister John Turner. "For him those values are Faith, Family and Friends." Added Bob Clarke, the president and general manager of the Philadelphia Flyers: "Alan is a very Good and Decent Man."

When the two-hour proceeding had ended, this "good and decent man" had been found guilty of defrauding the players he represented by peddling advertising revenues from the Canada Cup. Then, with his Order of Canada pin in his left lapel, he was taken away in a goldy wagon to begin serving an 18-month sentence in the Munster Correctional Centre, a medium-security facility that houses white-collar and other nonviolent criminals. Thus ended a two-day drama that came about after a government and highly anxious plea bargain that Eagleson's legal team, captained by Toronto's Brian Greenbaum, had arranged with both American and Canadian prosecutors. "Al being Al," said Brewer, "he managed to cut himself a good deal."

Make that a very good deal. If Eagleson behaves himself in prison, he will be served only six months of this 18-month term—all with he had been serving 45 charges after three years in stickyball by the FBI and the RCMP. E convicted on the U.S. charges alone, which included racketeering and embezzlement, he could have done 35 years of hard time. One senior Canadian jurist, outraged by the deal, told *Maclean's* that a non-celebrity accused of Eagle's crimes in Canada could have expected 30 to 12 years. And Dave Forbes, a former NHLer who flew from Colorado Springs, Colo., to Boston to witness Eagleson's conviction, said: "It's really disappointing. It was such a slap on the wrist for such a huge betrayal."

As a result of the plea bargain, Eagleson was convicted on six of the lower charges. In Boston, he paid \$1 million [Cdn] in restitution for the money he stole from the players, including a \$15,000 disability claim that rightfully belonged to Glen Sleskany when the for-

near Chicago Blackhawks centre was blinded by a high stick that ended his career. Eagleson sold properties he owned in Florida and New York City to raise part of the \$1 million and he has told friends that he has very little money left after paying legal bills. But many doubt that estimate put Eagleson's net worth at anywhere from \$5 million to \$20 million (page 38). How much of that came from robbing the players? "It's an impossible calculation to make," said Rob Goodenow, Eagleson's replacement as executive director of the NHLPA. "Boxes and boxes of documents have been destroyed." Boston FBI agent Tom Daley, who reviewed 250,000 documents and conducted more than 300 interviews in the seven years he spent investigating Eagleson, says "if Eagleson's poor, I wish I was that poor."

Despite the players' disappointment at the magnificent sentence, Eagleson's full prison game has been anticlimactic. The Earl had breakfast and bathed and a Roboflex the size of a coconut sat on his chest. After half an hour of leaning back with his nose against the ceiling—and his middle finger stuck into his hockey hole when he angrily saluted the Russians during the 1972 Summit Series. Although he could be seeing them one minute, he could be screaming obscenities the next. There never seemed to be enough hours in the day for all the whining, yelling and, we now know, the stealing that Eagleson did.

New hockey fans denounce him bitterly on talk-radio shows and call for him to be sent from the Hockey Hall of Fame and stripped of his Order of Canada.

Many of the moneyed classes have begun to shun him as well. On Nov. 18, Eagleson's wife was desperate to rent a one-bedroom coach house for \$1,150 a month in Cambridge, a Toronto neighbourhood of nearly Victorian homes. When she came to see the property, she told the owners, Martin McGuire and Jane Martin, that she and her husband had sold their million-dollar house in Rosedale and were planning to move to London where they still own a flat near Buckingham Palace that they need to keep a small place in Toronto for trips home to visit family, including Eagleson's mother, who now lives in the Tokyo Centre, a no-frills old hotel house. The kept telling her they really wouldn't be spending much time in the coach house because they still had a home in the country," said Martin. But Martin did not tell the Martins that Eagleson was an "old" rather than an "it" empty for



Crowning with NHL great Park in 1952: like a second father to many hockey players

six months," she said, "then have that creek line in it."

In retrospect, Eagleson's descent from power to prison can be traced back to April 1, 1980. That day, Orr—the player who made Eagleson—swore recluses with him. For years, Orr had known something was wrong with the way Eagleson was handling his money. But while the Eagle had once promised to make Orr a millionaire by the time he was 25, an independent accountant now revealed that by the time he retired in 1978, his assets totalled \$454,800 (U.S.), while his taxes, legal and accounting bills were \$439,000 (U.S.). In other words, Orr—the hockey great whose 19-year NHL career brought him two Stanley Cups and numerous records—was essentially broke.

Orr did not go public with the details of his personal misery. He was too embarrassed that his divorce from Eagleson rumbled through the players' association with the force of an oncoming avalanche. Increasingly, the players were starting to ask questions of Eagleson, whose legal bills were \$1,200 more who say Eagleson and former NHL president John Ziegler conspired to suppress their salaries and profited from them, the players hope to win \$500 million to \$800 million.

He is also the target of a number of civil lawsuits, including:

- A Philadelphia collision and racketeering prosecution led by this former NHL player on behalf of 1,200 more who say Eagleson and former NHL president John Ziegler conspired to suppress their salaries and profited from them, the players hope to win \$500 million to \$800 million.
- A Boston \$100,000 racketeering lawsuit by player Andre Stankov over disability payments.
- An appeal of a civil agreement awarded to player Mike Gilis, who said Eagleson in 1974 for insurance-related fees plus punitive damages, after a two-year court battle in Toronto, Gilis was awarded \$570,000 but is still waiting to collect it pending Eagleson's appeal.

But every time the players rise up to ask questions, Eagleson beat them down, made them feel they were too stupid to understand the fine points of high finance. "He treated me like a child dam," said Brewer, the former Leaf. Fred Park, whose career with the New York Rangers and Bruins lasted 15 years, was a vice-president of the NHLPA in 1981



Getting with Orr (above, left) near Toronto in 1970; laughing it up (right) with Maple Leafs owner Harold Ballard in 1972: happier days



Living months up for Conservative leader Joe Clark in 1983: events in the highest places



Recovering the Order of Canada from Gee. Gen. Jeanne Sauvé in 1988: recognition



Eagle apologizes for defrauding players who trusted him

He remembers all too clearly how Eagleson would use his cunning combination of street shaggy and gift legalese to trick players who challenged his authority. "In those days, most of the guys had a huge passion to play, but they hadn't finished high school," said Park. "When they'd get up to take to a question he didn't like, he'd use them a new road. That's what I like to people up."

Two years ago, Park and four other retired players filed a class-action lawsuit against Eagleson, John Ziegler—NHL president from 1977 to 1983—and Bill Wirtz, Chicago Blackhawks owner and longtime NHL chairman. In it they allege collusion between Eagleson and the NHL management that would estimate cost the players between \$200 and \$800 million in salaries and lost benefits. Park, who now works for a manufacturer

ing company that designs graphic shirts for hockey sticks, with consent with the money made over the course of his career—his salary was \$275,000 (U.S.) when he retired in 1983. He well knows, even accounting for inflation, that it's a small change compared with the \$1 million that even an average NHL player makes today. But he is not complaining. What angered him was finding out, upon retirement, that his pension would be \$13,000 (Cdn), compared with Eagleson's pension, which was set at \$26,000 (U.S.). In the 1972 Canada-Russia series, Park was one of the players who escorted Eagle was safely across the ice of the Lushan Palace rink after he had been apprehended by Russian guards while charging an offhanded goal judge. "It sickens my stomach to think of it now," said Park. "Four other times, we played all those Canada Cup games for nothing because Al told us the money was all going to our personal. It was a lie."

It was only one of a tangled web of lies Eagleson told when he was head of the NHLPA, but that finally began to unravel in 1980, when a group of players met in Philadelphia lawyer Ed Garvey to investigate irregularities in the NHLPA. When Eagleson heard that Garvey was working on the report, he phoned him at home. As Garvey tells it, Eagleson barked: "Back off, I've got you in my sights." Garvey, the former executive director of the National Football League Players' Association, laughed at Eagleson's bully tactics, replying: "Well, I hope you shoot straight."

Garvey's confidential report was a damning 56-page indictment of Eagleson's NHLPA stewardship. Among Garvey's findings: During the 1980s, the NHLPA had gained "no benefits of any significance" for the players, who largely lived behind those of other sports. He said that Eagleson's conflicts of interest negatively affected every aspect of the players' finances. Of the Eagleson financial situation, he wrote: "Eagleson may be the most successful executive in the labor movement in North America. Not even the president of the two-million member Teamsters union comes close to him in wages, benefits, pension and expense accounts." Garvey's conclusion: "What we found out only be described as a scandal."

Garvey's report, which was put together with the help of Canadian player agents Rick Wirtz and Bob Selby, was the document that helped launch Eagleson. Two years after it was written, Eagleson was deposed as union leader and replaced by

CLIPPING AN EAGLE'S WINGS

Alan Eagleson paid up to six changes—beginning his way out of another 35. But he still faces a series of civil suits and an investigation by the Law Society of Upper Canada.

THE CHARGES

- In the United States, Eagleson was indicted in 1994 on 32 counts of embezzlement, fraud, taking kickbacks and racketeering, plus two of obstructing justice.
- In Canada, he was charged in 1996 with eight counts of fraud and theft.

THE PLEA BARGAIN

- Eagleson pleaded guilty to three counts of mail fraud in the United States and three counts of fraud in Canada. He paid a \$1-million fine and was sentenced to 18 months in jail.

THE FUTURE

- Eagleson voluntarily agreed to accept probation following a 1995 investigation by the Law Society of Upper Canada, which found 44 counts of professional

Goodness, a Detroit lawyer and Garvey's report was taken up by Russ Conway, the rambunctious sports editor of the *Lancaster Mass. Eagle-Tribune*, who launched a seven-year investigation into Eagleson that culminated in his book, *Game Master* (page 27). The book, in turn, was used by the FBI in its three-year investigation, which resulted in 34 hockey counts against Eagleson.

With so much evidence against the former hockey czar, why did he get off so easily?

Paul Kelly, the former U.S. prosecutor who built the American case against Eagleson, denied last week when he considered the plan began. Kelly was hoping to try Eagleson in the United States. In December, 1986, the Boston district attorney filed a three-volume, 800-page extradition request to the justice department in Ottawa. According to Kelly, Canada and the United States mutually extradite criminals back and forth across the border every year close to 30 alone last year. But the Canadian government never acted on the Eagleson extradition request.

Certain officials explain that cases involving illegal use of force are complex and difficult to extradite than drug or even murder charges. But critics speculate that Eagleson's deep political connections may have helped as well. "For two years, the executive regimes reorganized in Havana," said Kelly. "I never left the minister of justice to be publicly lied. We urged the Canadian side to act on it, but we heard nothing from them. Nothing. There was no more the United States could do in terms of getting Mr. Eagleson back to the U.S. short of coming into Canada and kidnapping him. Was it frustrating? Yes."

In many ways, it seemed that night up until he was taken to jail, Eagleson was still acting as though he was above the law. In a move that astonished veteran courtroom observers, he was not handcuffed as he was led away from his Toronto court appearance, in January, when the FBI looked, disapproving and took his mug shot, one agent reported that he was talking with the fingerprinting equipment "He just didn't get it," said the agent. "He

doesn't realize he's a criminal." In the Boston courtroom, when Carl Finzer got up and said: "Thank God for America, because this never would have happened in Canada," Eagleson started laughing.

At the Mexico City National Centre, Eagleson now lives in a single-story dormitory, where he sleeps in a room that smells like stale cigarette smoke mixed with sweet institutional cleanser. Is a chilling condescension for a man about to become a senior citizen in three months,

Eagleson ushered in Canada-Soviet hockey



Paul Henderson scores USA goal in 1972, according to

he now finds himself banished with 27 other criminals—local and enter athletes and petty drug dealers for the most part. The worst cleaning officers. There is one telephone available to inmates, usually with a long lineup, and prisoners are entitled to only two visits a week. When he gets out later this year, Eagleson will face a series of civil lawsuits brought by former players. They may take enormous satisfaction from seeing the Eagle finally laid in jail, but what they want most of all—and will have to fight valiantly to get—is their money back.

HEP STEPHAN NOLAN, JIMMY HULL, and STEVE CAMERON in Toronto, and JOHN GOSWICK in Ottawa

LETTERS FROM HIS ADMIRERS

"I am very proud to be a friend of Alie Eagleson. This man has been the best leader hockey ever had. He has done more for hockey players and their families than anyone else has ever done."

Bob Clarke, general manager, Philadelphia Flyers and Canadian Olympic Hockey Team

"For many years, I have considered Alie Eagleson my friend. I know him to be a loyal, trustworthy person with strong family values."

Bob Garney, general manager, Dallas Stars, and assistant general manager, Canadian Olympic Hockey Team

"I have not always endorsed his style (or my own) on occasion, but I have never doubted his sincerity. I am thankful for the many things he has done for me over the years."

Paul Henderson, who scored the winning goal in the 1972 Canada-U.S.S.R. Summit Series

"I trusted Al's leadership and advice and continue to have confidence in him. My family and I have been friends of Al and his family for years, and I've known Al to be very loyal to his friends and supporters."

Darryl Sittler, former Toronto Maple Leafs star

"I have found a treasure in Alie Eagleson. I will finish by saying what Portus Philie and about Christ. I find no fault with this man."

Don Johnson, former president of the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association

"I have known Alie Eagleson for 20 years personally and professionally and I hold him in high regard. All my experience with him attests to his good character."

John Farver, former prime minister of Canada

"When, as I recognized when I first encountered him a few years ago, a colorful figure, but somewhat off-kilter, I have also come to realize that he is a generous, devout and honorable man."

The Very Rev. Douglas Steele, dean of St. James Anglican Cathedral

"I have known Alie Eagleson for 30 years and consider him a friend, adviser and confidant. His friends are a wide circle and a wide deep throughout Canada. Alie is a good friend, a good citizen and, most of all, a good individual."

Paul Godfrey, president and CEO, Sun Media Corp.

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DOES there always have to be only one national cuisine?

CAN food do more than just nourish the body?

CAN you discover a country through its cuisine?

WHO said we can't eat with our fingers?

ARE we really asking too much?

Singapore
So easy to enjoy, so hard to forget



Conway: 'Al Eagleson didn't even have the common decency to go visit the family'

CANADA

SPECIAL REPORT

Chasing the Eagle

Ross Conway is a stocky, balding man with silver 1970s sideburns who writes sports for a small Massachusetts newspaper. He spent most of his adult life between cars, cars and ice rinks—at least until 1990, when he started to investigate the nasty rumors he had heard about hockey power broker Alan Eagleson. When he approached the man himself, the interview began: "Alas Conway, how the f— are you? Making lots of money, I hope." Last week, more than seven years later, the 49-year-old Conway walked into a Boston courtroom to apologise from a collection of former players who had come to see Eagleson plead guilty to killing NHL fans of hundreds of thousands of dollars—a plea that resulted directly from Conway's work. "It's like being applauded in church," Conway said later. "It was embarrassing."

It was also richly deserved. First, in a 1981 seminar for Lawrence, Mass., *Eagle-Strikes*, and later in his book *Greasy Menace*, Alan Eagleson and the Corruption of Hockey, Conway sparked an FBI investigation and a federal grand jury that led the Eagle too. His newspaper series was runner-up for a 1992 Pulitzer Prize, but he stresses he had a huge team behind him, including his publisher, hundreds of hockey players and a couple of Toronto writers who were hired to do a story for a paper he was simply leading them to at a dinner once gave him. "My father, God bless him, was in public service all his life," he said in a Boston accent that turned father into "brother." "He said, 'If you ever get a chance to right a wrong in your lifetime, try to right it.' I don't think you can say it any better."

Conway got his first newspaper job at 14, writing about auto racing in his home town of Doverell, Mass. His career with the *Eagle-Tribune* began in 1967, just before he attended Northeastern University in Boston. He started covering the Bruins of Bobby Orr, Phil Esposito, Ken Hodge and Johnny Ducyk that became Stanley Cup champions in 1970. Now the paper's sports editor, Conway says his attachment to those players influenced how serious, seven-month investigation into Eagleson's affairs. "If your neighbor's house is burning down," says Conway, "you're not going to walk away."

The work at first was like racing on a muddy track—piled through players' financial records. Then, his sources broadened to include high-ranking RCMP members and someone close to Eagleson's family. For periods of three and four months, he shopped his newspaper's ditches to accumulate hundreds of audio tapes and nearly six filing cabinets of documents from Britain, Switzerland, Bermuda, the United States and Ontario. His favorite is Eagleson's 1988 memo to players' association members. "I, nor any family, nor any company to which I'm associated, has benefited directly or indirectly from any international business," says Conway. "If the Canadian equivalent is, I am just a croak."

Richard Noxon's infectious line. Conway later began to collaborate with Toronto-based CBC reporter Bruce Dowd, whom he admired for taking on Eagleson in his own backyard. Conway also had the help of Loraine Mahoney, a Toronto journalist specialising in sports, and Carl Brewer and Brewer's partner Sue Foster. "Sue is marvelous, intelligent lady who never ceases to amaze me," he said of the 55-year-old former teacher who, with Brewer, spearheaded the 1995 victory by retired players seeking pension money misallocated by NHL, Inc.

For Conway, what made Eagleson's betrayal of trust and abandonment of those in need. He cites the 1983 injury to St. Louis Blues forward Eddie Rice. "Eddie is terribly shocked into the boards, six hours of brain surgery, he's not right, he'll never work, forget playing hockey—he's permanently disabled. He had a family, four kids. It's not like hockey players have brain surgery every year. Al Eagleson didn't even have the common decency to go visit the family. He wouldn't do them in the insurance process. He was gone. Crash up the cigarette rack, that's it. No one."

Conway wants not to shadow this story. It might take 30 years, he says, but he aims to chase down every cent Eagleson has to make sure players do not lose out in their compensation cases. He won't quit until the game is over.

JOHN NICOL

On the trail of Eagleson's money

The fallen czar may have up to \$50 million

BY KIMBERLEY NOBLE

Chances he cheated call him a thief and a liar. People for whom he did favors insist he's the salt of the earth, a fine and upstanding fellow, a good family man and all-around great guy. So how over looked in the past week's heated debate over Alan Eagleson's morals and character is the bottom line: How much money he might be. Eagleson has always been first and foremost a financial guy. He was smack in the centre of an enormous web of still-mysterious transactions involving many millions of dollars belonging to the individuals and organizations he managed for more than 20 years. A fair chunk of that money is still not accounted for. There is absolutely no question in the minds of investigators who have tracked his personal finances in recent years that Eagleson has squandered more cash on his own and other people's money to make sure that when he walks out of jail later this year, the one thing that he'll be for sure as a very rich man.

Exactly how rich may never be known—although estimates range from \$5 million to \$50 million. Eagleson spent years, and untold amounts of money on real estate, energy, making, keeping and hiding money. He had a dozen different sources of income: his law firm, a sports agency business, the hockey players' union, international hockey tournaments, insurance agencies selling disability and other sport-related policies, real estate, property rentals, directorships, various ventures such as a biker shop and a car wash, even short-lived forays in boxing promotion and provincial politics. Recent investigations of Eagleson's business dealings by police, disgruntled clients and journalists have exposed that he by revealing that where profits came to a halt. He made money from just about everything he touched. He showed a particular flair for channeling himself through the creative use of organizational expense accounts, which enabled him to travel and entertain lavishly without spending a cent of his own money.

That was not all. His recently updated version of *Game Makers: Alan Eagleson and the Corruption of Hockey*, as exposed by U.S. investigative reporter Russ Meehan, reveals financial wars in which Eagleson managed to set up what amounted to a secret, unregulated savings-and-loan organization for the benefit of himself and his business associates in the 1970s and 1980s, unbeknownst to anybody except a small handful of close business cronies. He collected, pooled and distributed millions of dollars' worth of player and tournament money. In the cases Conway documents, every time money changed hands whether it was flowing in or out, a healthy percentage would stick in Eagleson's form of some sort of fee or commission—be it in cash, land or a piece of the action.

Eagleson's remaining allies act as if he will be lucky to get out of jail with a penny to his name. *Establishment* friends, for example, have been acting as if he is already destitute—lending him a midtown apartment in the months leading up to his court appearances,



Family home in Toronto's Rosedale district sold for more than \$1 million last year; the Eagle in this law office making and hiding money

and talking about hand-outs to help pay legal bills. Eagleson testified in a 1998 trial in an Ontario civil court that he would emerge from his ordeal worth less than \$1 million. He wanted to pledge what was to have been a \$500,000-royalty U.S. National Hockey League Players' Association promise to help pay the \$1 million (Cdn.) fee levied in Boston to compensate victims of his U.S. friends. Friends also suggested that Eagleson had to cut a deal with U.S. and Canadian prosecutors because he was running out of cash.

The truth is that, for the time being, money is probably the least of Eagleson's problems. He had no trouble coming up with cash to pay his U.S. plea-bargain fine. The sale, with interest, of Eagleson's townhouse in Park Beach, Ill. (he sold it in 1995) and his apartment in New York City (he sold it in 1997) must have made more than half of what he required; his Boston lawyers paid the remaining \$268,826 by cheque, a U.S. prosecutor said. After taking that into account—and subtracting the pension payments, to which NHLPA executive director Bob Goodenow says Eagleson is no longer entitled—investigative reporters and creditors such as former Toronto Maple Leaf Carl Stener are still missing that Eagleson owes by his hands on up to \$50 million.

That figure—which popped up frequently in hallway chatter outside both the Boston and Toronto courthouses last week—dates from research published in *Nor Wirth*, a 1994 book about hockey finances by Vancouver writer Alison Griffiths and David Cruise. It was based on what was known about Eagleson's salaries, commissions, business empire and personal investments



at that time. The lower calculations came from Conway. His updated book identifies \$9.4 million in liquid assets apparently unaccounted for by the Eagleson family since the FBI launched its probe of his financial affairs in the early 1980s. Since the revised edition of Conway's book went to press last month, however, Conway says he has traced another \$1 million plus worth of real estate and other investments to Eagleson, bringing the running total to roughly \$5.5 million.

It should be noted that this number only includes what is on the public record, as documented by Conway and other Eagleson researchers. It takes into account the Eagleson family's reported sales of its stake in major assets, such as the downtown Toronto building that housed Eagleson's law office, as well as his stake in the NHLPA and Hockey Canada during the Eagleson years, three Toronto houses including the family's Rosedale home, and various real estate investments in the Ontario resort community of Collingwood, on Georgian Bay, including a roomy waterfront cottage that sold in 1994 for more than \$500,000. It does not cover the Eaglesons' sprawling country house near Collingwood, which Nancy Eagleson acquired from one of her husband's business associates last September 1998. Nor does it include anything that Eagleson—who, according to the statement of fact read into the Ontario court on Jan. 7, has a history of using Swiss bank accounts to avoid Canadian taxes—may have already invested offshore.

Other investigators say that like everything else on the record in the Eagleson story, this is only the tip of the financial iceberg. "Conway's book, however good it is, only barely scratches the surface," says one of the people who has seen Eagleson's books. "This is a laundry list of the size of those who gives in when the downspout, and you go through, and then they start shit and you don't know where you are. You cannot tell where real money is changing hands or what is only paper." Like others in his position, however, he is convinced that Eagleson will leave prison a wealthy man. "I don't think there's any question that the money is there. It's a question of what's going to be sharp enough to find it, and under what name."

Conway's book provides detailed descriptions of how a number of major Eagleson assets (including the new notorious office building at 27 Mulholland St. in Toronto, where Eagleson, among other things, managed to charge clients and employees rent on 24 hours the actual number of parking spaces) have been sold or transferred to Eagleson's relatives and/or business associates in recent years. Official investigations, however, have raised questions about the possibility that Eagleson remains the beneficial owner. The issue is true of a proprietary 30-year lease on a houses on London Road located near Buckingham Palace. According to Conway, that lease recently changed hands, and now belongs to one of Eagleson's business pals. The new owner, whose identity is not clear, may even be one of the men who wrote glowing character references for Eagleson at the time of last week's sentencing. Who actually owns, and who will use, the flat is far from clear, especially since the Eagleson family is reported to be making arrangements to relocate to England as soon as they are all free to leave Canada. "This United Kingdom is my country," the unnamed investigator said. "It's a good place to live, a nice place to live over."

Even though the criminal charges involved relatively small amounts of money, compared with the overall scope of Eagleson's documented activities, it is still possible that they could set off a chain of events that could eventually show the world what the man is worth. This fraud correction should improve the chances of a growing number of self-proclaimed Eagleson victims who are seeking financial redress through the U.S. and Canadian courts. If they succeed, they will become instant creditors, able to follow in the footsteps of Mike Giffin, the former Boston Bruins' turned lawyer and player agent to whom Eagleson owes \$250,000, following an ugly two-year Ontario court battle over fraudulent fees. Giffin, who has yet to see a penny of his judgment, is predicted to bring going after any of Eagleson's assets while an appeal of this award is pending. What Giffin does have in a court awarded right to ask financial questions, as seen in his lawyer's able to schedule a scheduling meeting with Eagleson—who was supposed to provide this information last Wednesday morning, but was able to skip this date with his creditors due to a more pressing engagement in a criminal court.

WITH STEVE CAMERON in Toronto

Unfortunately, he was a crook

BY TRENT FRAYNE

In the days before he began stealing their money, the hockey players sometimes called Alan Eagleson "Super Al". He was Super Al because he took them off bondage. He was the guy who organized the National Hockey League Players' Association, and stopped the owners from treating the players like slaves of hell.

You don't remember that part, now that hockey players are paid beyond their wildest dreams, now that Super Al has been defrocked and disowned? You've forgotten how players used to be dumped at the whim of a boss? How Toronto's miserable leader, Glen Sather, shipped his ruff, clumsy, naive Johnny (Gusset) McCannish to the farm team because he'd gone and got married in mid-season? Sather's sad marriage would intrude upon McCannish's debauches in hockey. So the wedding present was a one-way train ticket to the minors.

Or how about Jack Adams, who ran the mighty Detroit Red Wings for the Morris Isidor? You've forgotten how Adams resented following the 1951 season when two outstanding players asked to be traded? Adams was speaking to left-winger Ted Lindsay and goaltender Glenn Hall, both first-team all-stars, and traded both to the truly terrible Chicago Blackhats, left in the standings for each of the four last seasons.

Wretched men, not hockey back then. It was a six-team league, there were no player agents and the players jumped whenever the bosses barked. Then along came Super Al.

Before the Eagle began cheating the players, living in their own little bubble, he was the man who brought the great stars of Canada and Russia to the same ice face to produce the most emotional, the most thrilling, the most throat-grabbing decade of hockey ever played.

Back then, the Soviet Union was the most feared country on earth. But Super Al never backed down to any of their stone-faced officials on anything, shaming and humbling and waving his arms and demanding a fair shake for his side. And getting it. One thing you will remember if you owned a television set in 1972 was how the Eagle leaped from his seat the night in Moscow when the puck went into the Soviet goal and the goal judge didn't light the red light. In his box seat across the ice from the Team Canada bench, the Eagle hanged his feet in front upon raking the goal judge and probably strangling him. The boards at ice level were lined with armed Soviet enforcers, but the Eagle dashed among them to get at the goal judge.

That took guts. People were wary of the Russians a quarter of a century ago. We'd heard about Russian dancers and we'd read John le Carré. Some people, not included, felt a chill just before the start of that night game when the soldiers marched into the rink, guns across their shoulders. But not Super Al. When the red light didn't go on, he wrestled the soldiers

clutching him. Then Petr Mahovlich led a flying wedge of Team Canada players across the ice to rescue the Eagle and, as they led him back across the ice, he pushed his right arm into the ice, two, three, four times and gave the whiplash, leaving a crowd of finger. What a hero, right?

I have another lasting and private memory of the Eagle that goes back to the Internet hotel where the Canadian contingent stayed. It was the morning after the first game in Moscow. I was waiting for the elevator at the sixth floor to go down for breakfast and when the door opened Eagleson stepped out. He looked grey and ghastly. Canada had blown a 4-1 lead in the third

period and lost the game by 5-4 and now trailed in the series with three losses, a win and a tie. I'd missed the four games in Canada because I'd been at the Olympic Games in Munich, and perhaps for that reason Eagleson asked me what I thought of last night's game.

By then I'd known Eagleson for five years, since 1967 when he'd joined into public awareness as the lawyer for Boston's new star, Bobby Orr. He'd steered Orr into a lucrative (for the time) \$105,000, two-year deal with the light-fisted Bruins. And by 1972, the Eagle had earned, a Bay Street lawyer in a big firm, a brash, confident man of endless energy, this bearded in expensive suits, black hair combed and hair done by a stylist. He had a ready grin, he talked fast and he always seemed in a hurry. But this wasn't the Super Al who stepped from the elevator and wanted to know what I thought.

I told him I'd never seen a closer pass the puck as impressively as the Russians, wheeling and rewheeling and driving in again. He stared at me.

"Jesus," he said. "You must be a Communist." His face was ashen. He was serious, all right.

"All I said was that the passing knocked me out," I said. "We lost, you know," he said.

"We lost, I know we lost."

"We lost, and you're telling me you like their passing?"

"That's right."

"Anybody who thinks like you has to be a bloody Communist."

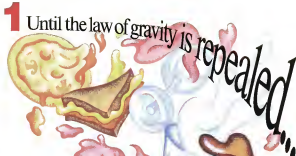
"What is this?" I said. "I tell you I like their passing and you give me this ideological gobbledegook. What the hell has—"

He interrupted.

"Are you telling what I have to say gobbledegook?" he demanded. "I don't want you saying, our incredible play is right here."

As we stood there glaring at one another, the elevator door opened and I jumped in and went down to breakfast.

With Super Al, you were either for him or against him and disagreeing with him put me in the latter camp. He hated to lose—anything—and the work he did back then made a great many Canadians proud. Too bad he was a crook.



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Ottawa says it is sorry

An apology for school abuse moves Fontaine

BY JOHN DEMONT

A few sentences into his historic speech in Ottawa last week, Phil Fontaine's eyes began to well with tears. The silver-haired grand chief of the Assembly of First Nations tried to carry on. But as his voice faltered, it was apparent that the long-awaited apology for the brutal treatment of native children in residential schools—delivered moments earlier by Indian Affairs Minister Jean Stewart—had invoked painful personal memories. In the four decades since leaving a residential school in Fort Alexander, Man., Fontaine has spent countless hours with counsellors, trying to come to terms with the physical and sexual abuse he suffered at the hands of priests after being taken from his family at age 7. Clutching a small eagle feather, he spoke of treatment as a new learning for thousands of native victims. "We honor you," he said, "and pay that the mentor guide your healing process."

But while Fontaine's reaction seemed genuine, the government's admission may also yield political dividends for the APN leader. As the most influential spokesman for native Canadians, Fontaine must deal with a growing chorus of urgent demands from the aboriginal community. The \$500-million healing fund that Stewart announced during the same ceremony, for instance, fell far short of the billions in new spending recommended by the November 1996 report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. And some aboriginal leaders were quick to dismiss the government's new action plan for natives—arrived at in consultation with the APN—as simply more vague promises. Wringing a statement of disavowal from Ottawa for the residential schools at least once, the grand chief who was elected last August, something concrete with which to grow that his conciliatory approach works. "This was a lifetime test," stressed Richard Crowe, chief of the Prophet First Nation in Saskatchewan. "He's off to a good start. Now he must prove that he can go on from here."

Already, one thing is certain: for the first time since ousted Mulroney protesters and



Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs Jean Stewart and Assembly of First Nations Grand Chief Phil Fontaine at the Ottawa ceremony: a new relationship?

Quebec police exchanged gunfire during the standoff in Oka, Que., seven years ago, relations between natives and Ottawa have lost much of their confrontational edge. Fontaine, by nature, is a consensus-seeker and deal maker. That makes him an odd fit from his own perspective as professor, David Mercredi, whose all-or-nothing approach to native sovereignty alienated the government. In contrast, Fontaine and Stewart—outspoken corner in the Chrétien cabinet with well-earned politi-

cal interests—have personal rapport. In fact, Fontaine had his first meeting with Stewart within an hour of replacing Mercredi as grand chief, and since then has worked behind the scenes to help craft the government's response to the royal commission.

Not all native groups are happy with that relationship, preferring Mercredi's up-front style. "With Mercredi we knew who we were getting," says Ray Little Chief, former chief of the Siksika First Nation in Alberta. "Fontaine

is a man because we don't know what kind of deal he will make with the Liberals." And last week, Inuit, Métis and non-status Indian leaders—who are not represented by the APN—charged that they had been excluded from discussions with Ottawa as a targeted response to the \$500-million royal commission. Certainly, the problems have vexed aboriginal people, worn over-reliance—and the solution for them easy. The report makes 440 recommendations, including a 20-year, \$50-billion spending program designed to improve the social lives of many aboriginal people. Chief among the recommendations are the elimination of high rates of poverty, family breakdown, suicide and substance abuse that plague Canada's 1.3 million aboriginals. If such problems are not fully addressed, the report says, Canada's native peoples will be consigned to a bleak future little different from their recent past.

According to Stewart's advisers, there is a good reason for Ottawa's rapid acceptance to the report. The government is anxious not to appear patronizing—repeating the all-too-familiar scenario in which white bureaucrats and politicians decide how best to solve aboriginal problems. Indeed, Stewart has said she plans to use the report as a guide, not rather than prescribe solutions, work them in partnership with the APN and other native organizations. "We can't change everything overnight," she said. "But we can certainly get started."

As a result, last week's announcements included few specifics. Stewart talked generally about programs to combat high rates of AIDS, tuberculosis and suicide and to preserve aboriginal languages, as well as an independent land claims tribunal. And she tried to dress up the government's response to the royal commission by making \$500 million the Liberals had already set aside for everything from housing to research in special child benefits for natives sound like first-time commitments. In reality, Ottawa's pledge amounted to only \$350 million in new money for community-based housing as a first step in dealing with the legacy of residential schools.

It was also clear that the government took steps with some warning of the apology, which stated only that Ottawa was "deeply sorry." By stopping short of admitting responsibility for the abuse of residential school students, the government seemed acknowledging its reluctance to some of the 200 legal actions launched by former students. Still, the admission seemed enough to at least partially placate Fontaine. Last week, he said the statement and healing fund convinced him to drop his demand for a national inquiry on residential schools. Like Stewart, he appeared more intent on turning the page and looking ahead to the day when Ottawa has more money to spend. Yet in spite of that hopeful turn, after 40 years of living the aftermath of residential schools, Fontaine knows something the Indian Affairs minister may not: there are some malaises that even time and good intentions cannot cure. □

Bruce Wallace



The politics of apology

Pierre Trudeau was never much inclined to say "sorry" for Belgium's role in the Second World War. That a prime minister should apologize for the atrocities of past governments was the kind of shabby political balm he found easy to dismiss. "He knew that historical apologies might make people feel better, but he also believed since you started apologizing for our bad act of history, you'd never stop," recalls sometime Trudeau aide Tom Axworthy, explaining why his former boss resisted constant appeals for Ottawa to formally apologize to Japanese-Canadians for their internment during the Second World War. "Trudeau was much interested in what you could do for people today. Facing the past was for historians."

As usual with Trudeau, beautiful theory but it is doubtful that his cold, analytical mind would play well in the gut-wrenching political culture of the late 1990s, where empathy and symbolic gestures so often substitute for real action. That partly explains why Jean Chrétien, who would rather waffle than show a soft side by saying "I'm sorry"—was not present when his government issued a formal apology to Canada's aboriginal peoples last week. Chrétien's absence was not just on some chiefs, who grumbled that the apology lacked prime ministerial weight, was weakly worded and was not broad enough. But to those who remember Chrétien's refusal to apologize for his party's GST flip-flop, last week's statement was another sign that, these days, to govern is to know how to show just enough regret.

Clearly, the modern chase for doing history is a global phenomenon. In Sri Lanka, Buddhist organizations want to have Prince Charles from ceremonies marking 50 years of independence unless he apologizes "for all the wrongs done during British rule. British Prime Minister Tony Blair and U.S. President Bill Clinton, two of the most accomplished expatriate politicians of their generation, have

recognized the potential value in asking for history. Blair apologized this year for British involvement in the Sudanese famine, while Clinton has looked around the notion of a formal apology for slavery. The appeal is obvious—regrets for past atrocities cost nothing on their own, they can make people feel better and, best of all, they are other people's mistakes you are apologizing for. For Brian Mulroney, issuing a formal apology to Japanese-Canadians was a no-brainer.

And yet to have any political value, the apology has to be seen as sincere. Other than trying to avoid the arm of the law for years, it is doubtful Alan Dagnall was much sympathy with his murdered son either in a Toronto court case last week. "Apology

comes out of the crisis management literature of the 1980s," says pollster Frank Graves of the Ottawa firm ZIGUS. "Until then, the practice had been to deny it, to lie, to insist on responsibility was a bit of a novelty. But it's no longer fresh, and people judge you on your sincerity."

That's why Alan Rock's recent, crumbly apology to the victims of the Air India disaster was not convincing. Rock had to report it, bending his knees just a bit deeper. When Rock took the stage to express sorrow last fall for the federal government's role in the tainted blood scandal, the response from the victims was true, but how much money will you settle up to compensate us for your mistake?

With the natives, Chrétien's inherent reluctance to offer an apology was overcome by Assembly of First Nations National Chief Paul Fontaine's argument that it would clear the air, but not the negotiation relationship. The fact that Fontaine had to convince the Liberals on the merits—and that it took months of bureaucratic anguish to get the wording right—hardly suggests that Ottawa's "deeply sorry" came straight from the heart. If the big game of history suddenly ceases to distract progress in the present, then conciliatory politics will show some real value. Otherwise, apologizing for history may just take out of fashion.

A reluctant purchase

The Cormorant wins the chopper war

BY JOHN GEDDES

Chief Mark Gobeval's many of the big news conference. Many of the colleagues gathered around TV's last week at the Corner, B.C., armed forces have to applaud Defence Minister Arthur Eggleston's long-awaited announcement that Canada would buy 15 new search-and-rescue helicopters. That Gobeval was busy at a league, proposing to junk a worn-out engine from an ageing Aurora patrol airplane. For Eggleston, the day marked the end of a political struggle to gain approval from a skeptical federal cabinet for the controversial procurement deal.

For Gobeval, though, it was just another skill, having to run a team Canada's often outdated—in some cases, nearly obsolete—military hardware.

How many billions Ottawa spends upgrading that old equipment in the next few years will depend largely on Eggleston's skill in politics has department through the political balance stirred up by the \$750-million helicopter purchase. The government was dragged reluctantly into selecting the Cormorant, a revamped version of the EH-90 chopper chosen by the Tories in a much larger deal that was scrapped by Prime Minister Jean Chretien soon after he took power in 1993. Some Liberals grumbled that defence bureaucrats drafted the highly technical specifications for the procurement contract to ensure that the search for a new chopper, the Cormorant, came out on top. If so, there may be a price to pay: "The cabinet felt it was sold haggled by the department," said one senior defence industry official. "The Liberals may be so relaxed off they've decided to approve the next project."

Eggleston seems bound to take an any such resistance. In an interview with *Maclean's* following the Cormorant decision, he was adamant about the need to proceed with a series of other major purchases, from a second batch of helicopters and new submarines, to expensive upgrades for CF-18 fighter jets and

those Aurora patrol planes. A lot of these projects have been needed for a while and they need to be brought forward in a framework that's affordable," he argued. Eggleston is not, however, that he is not joining the line-up of cabinet ministers at Finance Minister Paul Martin's door pleading for a slice of the much-discussed "fiscal dividend"—the new federal money that will be made available by a balanced budget expected this year or next, instead. Eggleston and the purchases can be funded out of the \$65.5-billion annual budget at



Eggleston is a \$750-million order reverses the 1993 election promise

ready approved for the defence department.

Still, there is no chance of a smooth ride through cabinet for at least one of those multi-billion-dollar projects. A plan to buy up to 35 military helicopters for about \$2 billion is bound to stick in the hearts of many Liberals. Having won last week's search-and-rescue contract, Britain's GKN Westland and Italy's Agusta SpA would be the clear front-runners. If they win again, the continuation of the two contracts would appear to all but ensure the entire Tory plan to buy 43 EH-100 helicopters—the very deal Chretien abandoned in his 1993 election campaign—as too costly. Many defence observers expect Eggleston to allow for a cooling-off period before proposing a call for bids on the military helicopters.

Nearly as controversial as the helicopter saga is Canada's scheme to acquire four

slightly used submarines from Britain. (U.S. pressure, Canada has only three subs.) The purchase, estimated at nearly \$1 billion, would largely be paid for in a swap involving the training of British troops in Canada. Under such a deal, Canada would waive the first charges for training foreign troops. "We've had the opportunity for some time," Eggleston said. "Canada has to be brought to it before long. Last month, we resumed discussions with the Brits about it." The problem is that submarines are a tough sell. Critics say they

are rarely used in the peace-keeping missions Canadians tend to favor and are less effective than ships and aircraft in non-military coastal patrol roles, such as fisheries inspections and chasing drug-runners. "I think there would be no public support for subs," said Bill Robinson, a researcher with the Waterloo, Ont.-based peace group Project Ploughshares. By contrast, Robinson said, even his organization sees merit in buying helicopter-mounted armored vehicles for peacekeeping.

More mundane than buying high-tech choppers and subs, but potentially nearly as expensive, is the need to upgrade the air force's CF-116 in service since the 1960s, and its 1970s-vintage Auroras. Along with general refurbishing, the fighter jets need new weapon systems and the patrol planes must modernize. The combined cost of the two projects could be \$2.5 billion. And while investing in his 1993-old aircraft and service seems frugal enough, even these projects come with political pitfalls. Different companies—and their home provinces—will vie for the lucrative work. Ottawa remembers all too well how Brian Mulroney's Tories suffered in 1988 after awarding the best CF-18 maintenance contract to a Montreal firm. If Westland company had been recommended to cabinet by defence officials and the decision to ignore that advice called western alienation for years. As Eggleston is fast learning, the task of a peacetime Canadian minister at defense largely amounts to deciding where the money goes. □



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Betting on a dark horse

At 10 a.m. on Jan. 8, Ian Blimey was sitting in his lawyer's office in downtown Toronto, absorbed in a book about patsies, when he got an offer for lawyers or a referee—a suit on the Supreme Court of Canada. That phone call from Justice Minister Aron McLean put an end to the 35-year-old Blimey's career as a lawyer and to his respectability. It was about who would fill the Ontario vacancy created by the death on Nov. 24 of Justice John Sopinka. "You don't think twice about accepting that appointment," said Blimey. "So when it's offered you grab it." For the second time in three months, however, the legal profession found itself sharply divided over Ottawa's search for a candidate to sit on the nation's highest court. And this time around, the ordinarily discreet support for people thought to be in the running turned into (frustrated) lobbying and backbiting. "It's the first time in my memory," said one prominent western lawyer, "where there's actually been political infighting and corruption and God knows what over a Supreme Court appointment."

The federal government's selection of the Montreal-born and often pious Blimey, a partner in the blue-chip firm of McCarthy Tétrault, greeted the gossip columns believing among the backers of other candidates—while splitting the legal community into two camps. On one side are lawyers who say Blimey's grasp of constitutional law will be invaluable when the court begins hearing arguments on Feb. 16 as to whether Quebec can unilaterally secede from Canada. During his 1982 to 1986 stint as federal associate deputy minister of justice, Blimey was one of Ottawa's chief constitutional advisers.

On the other side are lawyers who criticize McLean for not adding a third woman to the nine-judge court, not choosing a sitting judge or not picking a lawyer with broader trial experience than Blimey, who, for the most part, has acted for corporations and the federal government. Last month, he represented the Chippewas as a dispute with an Indian band over 1,800 hectares of land in downtown Toronto. The judge reserved his decision.

Blimey's supporters were quick to applaud his appointment to the \$220,000-a-year post

he will be sworn in on Feb. 21. "He's very well-qualified, very shy, not at all forward and pushy like me," said Toronto trial lawyer Ian Outerbridge. Earl Chermak, who divides his practice between Toronto and London, Ont., and opposed Blimey in the Sopinka case, described his frequent courtroom adversary as "a first-class lawyer, first-class

A constitutional lawyer is chosen for high court



Review by Toronto: "You don't think twice about accepting"

man and a first-class person." Defense counsel Alan Harky of Saskatoon said he had no opinion one way or the other about Blimey. However, he added, "not enough people with current law experience are named to the appellate courts."

Critics of the appointment, during the prospect of one day arguing a case before Blimey, requested anonymity. "He's very bright, he's very good but there is a horrible

unbalance of women on the court," said one. "There's something funny going on—there's too few, only two women, right?—because the profession is full of great, competent Jews and women." Said another: "He's never acted for the little guy, so I don't think he understands the problems of the little people."

The controversy resulted in conflict just a month last October when McLean named New Brunswick appellate Judge Michel Bastarache to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice Gerard La Forest—a fellow New Brunswicker. That boosted the traditional rotating appointments among the Atlantic Provinces. And McLean has also named Newfoundland, which has yet to have a representative on the high court.

The day after her announcement, Blimey was in a reflective mood. Following the phone call, he said, "I had a sense of shock when I realized I was leaving a practice I was very fond of." As for what lay ahead, he said: "The Supreme Court is more significant now than it has ever been, and the work it does happens to be the kind that interests me. I've done a lot of constitutional work, charter cases and so on, and it's going to be nice to look at the questions from the other side of the bench."

Remembered that his income was about to shrink substantially, he said: "Well, that's right, but that's neither here nor there as long as your children are old enough that you're not going to compromise their education." He and his wife, Susan, have four Daniel, 28, an aspiring writer, currently "doing his own thing in India"; Matthew, 23, a physician; Alexandra, 22, a Rhodes Scholar now at Oxford University where she is pursuing a doctorate in immunology; and Maclean, 17, completing high school.

In what little spare time he has had, Blimey said, "I have become an avid gardener. I said a bout—a 21-foot Shark—on Lake Ontario, I play squash and ski, the usual kind of things." Funniest to pick a favorite activity, he said: "We have a place northwest of Toronto where we've got a great rose garden and I spend a lot of time having around." The last, the squash and the ski can easily make the trip to Ottawa But the rose garden may become a memory

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Canada NOTES

ASSISTING SUICIDE

Ontario Court Judge Charles Scahill considered Dr. Maurice Genueroux of Toronto on two counts of assisting suicide. Genueroux, a prominent AIDS doctor who provided pills last month, is the first Canadian physician convicted of assisting suicide. Genueroux prescribed sleeping pills to two men with AIDS—one who later died, and one who did not. Genueroux is to be sentenced in April.

RED CROSS REFUSAL

The Canadian Red Cross Society said it will not hand over its assets to Quebec, which hopes to establish its own blood agency. The Red Cross said such a move would undermine efforts to create a national blood system run by one authority, something the Quebec-based blood inquiry insisted on.

CLEARING NAMES

RCMP commissioner Philip Murray said the force will take the new step of publicly clearing the names of any suspects in the Airbus investigation if charges are not laid against them. Among those who have been identified in connection with the probe into allegations of kickbacks in the 1980 sale of 34 Airbus jets to Air Canada were former prime minister Brian Mulroney and German-Canadian businessman Konrad Schreiber.

THE BERNARDO TAPES

Police questioned Toronto Sun columnist Heather Bard after she reported that author Stephen Williams had claimed he had viewed banned videotapes of sex killer Paul Bernardo raping and torturing girls. Williams denied seeing the tapes, which Ontario Court Justice Philip LaSalle banned from public viewing in 1995.

POLICE PROTEST PAY

Mounties in British Columbia are considering ways to protest after New Year's Day passed without a pay hike. A five-year wage freeze imposed on the RCMP in 1993 expired on Dec. 31.

A TEACHING POST

Orville Meriwether, grand chief of the Assembly of First Nations from 1991 until last year, will join the native studies department of Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ont., as a special adjunct professor on Jan. 28.



Vancouver's Pender Street: preference to French or English

Immigration overhaul

It could quite literally change the face of immigration in Canada. In a report commissioned by Ottawa, an independent, three-member panel recommended that the federal government put the Immigration Act and start afresh with new rules governing admissibility to the country. Among the 172 sweeping recommendations in the proposal that immigrants be forced to prove their proficiency in

either English or French. Would-be family class immigrants—those sponsored by close relatives already in Canada—who lack the required proficiency would have to pay for their own language lessons. "Let's try to choose the people who will fit in best and therefore be an asset and not a burden," said Rodney Smith, one of the report's authors.

Mandatory language skills would hit British Columbia's Chinese population particularly hard, fully one-half of 185,000 Chinese immigrants who entered Canada in the early to mid-1990s could not speak English. Other recommendations included requiring so-called economic immigrants to have a minimum level of schooling and work experience.

However, Minister Lawrence Robertson did not immediately back any of the panel's recommendations and promised public consultations beginning next month. Robertson did, however, call it "a report worthy of our full attention." She also let it be known that "everything on the table."

Klein opens the vault

Many provincial leaders would like to have Alberta Premier Ralph Klein's problems: what to do with an expected budget surplus of almost \$2 billion. In his annual state-of-the-province address last week, Klein said he intends to spend \$500 million on education, social services and job training over the next three years. Another \$500 million will be earmarked for repairs to the province's infrastructure. In the process, the pace of repayment on Alberta's \$26-billion accumulated debt will be slowed. "It's very much like a house-hold," Klein said. "If you get a bonus twice a week one year, it doesn't mean you can permanently increase your budget and your children's."

Klein's plan calls for social services to get \$70 million to bolster programs for the disabled, child welfare and seniors' shelters, while colleges, universities and apprenticeship programs are to receive an extra \$85 million. The new spending was widely welcomed, but some critics wanted cuts to income taxes or an increase in the province's 85 minimum wage, the lowest in Canada. "We're pleased there are dollars going back into health care, education and apprenticeships, but the amounts [Klein] announced are just slightly ahead of inflation," said Anthony Cornwell, head of the Alberta Federation of Labour. "It seems good, but you have to put it into perspective."

JUSTICE

A pretty woman

They Sargent is tall, blond and beautiful—and if police are right—a cunning chess player who used her feminine charms to lull \$150,000 from four men. Last week, Toronto police charged Sargent, 31, with fraud, alleging she deceived independent professionals in one instance, police say she claimed to be related to the wealthy Branniff family in wealth, to Ontario's Lt. Gov. Mike Lazaridis. She allegedly told one lover she was dying of cancer and needed money for expensive medical treatment in the United States, all the while wearing designer clothing and living in fashionable downtown Toronto neighborhoods. Sargent, who used aliases such as Tina Lyn, worked the bar scene in the city's Toronto district. Since her arrest, 10 more alleged victims have come forward. One man, whose police would not identify, said he had a two-year relationship with Sargent. "Love is stupid," he said.

Preparing for the Pope

Both sides have their own agenda as the pontiff visits Castro's beleaguered land

The Bahá'ís have spoken: It will be a rocky year in Cuba. In the wee hours of New Year's Day, 600 priests of the Sun tern faith that is followed by millions of Cubans, mainly the black and the poor, gathered at a house in central Havana. They donned white robes, then chanted and prayed and tasted the blood of chickens and goats offered in sacrifice to their gods, the Orishas. Finally, they smother their Orishas, or predictions, for 1990. It will be a year, the Bahá'ís warned, marked by death, disease and disaster. Just in case for a country accustomed to decades of domination by a single man, Fidel Castro, they forewarn signs of a crisis in the top leadership. "It's terrifying—the worst we've seen in 40 years," says Natalia Bokor, a Havana anthropologist who both studies and practices Santería.

What the Bahá'ís may mean in Cuba—born Castro's Communist government has been careful over the years to keep on their good side. This year it has a special reason to pay heed, as the country prepares for one of the most remarkable events of its four decades of socialism: Pope John Paul II is coming to Cuba next week for a five-day visit that will be both a historic encounter between two of the world's most charismatic figures, and a point test of strength between two faiths—Catholicism and Marxism.

The Pope and Castro are old men now, products of the great ideological struggles of the 20th century. John Paul, at 71, is clearly fading. Vatican watchers believe he suffers from Parkinson's disease, and has staff cancelled many of his public activities over Christmas to save his strength for the grueling trip to Cuba, where he will celebrate open-air masses in four cities over four days—ending at times in a Pope-mobile brought to Havana in mid-December from Ottawa's National Museum of Science and Technology. Castro, though thinner and slower than in the past, is by most accounts still robust at age 69—strong enough to deliver one of his quarterly seven-hour speeches as recently as October. But after 39 years in power, and after defying countless predictions of his political demise, even he must have intimations of his own mortality.

Both sides, of course, have their own agendas. On the eve of the visit, an acid-folding was being erected in Havana's Plaza de la Revolución for the Pope's final mass there on the morning of Sunday, Jan. 25, they were being as publicly cautious as a pair of would-be lovers, fearful that any wrong word might spoil the mood. John Paul's visit, church officials insist, is a purely pastoral event devoid of wider motives. The government, agrees a top official, simply wants a "calm" visit with "no political issues getting in the way." But this will be the

ON
ASSIGNMENT
BY
ANDREW PHILLIPS
IN CUBA



Years of modern history in Rome in 1990: first of two faiths—Marxism and Catholicism



Firestarter of the mysterious Santería gods change sex at midnight

hardest event in Cuba not organized by the government since Castro took power in 1959—a major risk for a regime that remains hypersensitive to any overt dissent. And, notes a Western diplomat in Havana, "nothing happens here that isn't political." Castro's government clearly hopes the Pope's presence will help to counter American efforts to isolate Cuba—especially if John Paul repeats the Vatican's condemnation of the U.S. embargo that has crippled the economy. The Vatican, in turn, hopes the church will be strengthened enough to play a major role in rehabilitating the country since Castro finally falls from the scene.

That is the big picture. For those who kept the faith through decades of official repression, and the hundreds of thousands more who have filled Cuba's churches since attitudes relaxed a few years ago, the coming of John Paul is more personal. A thousand or more packed Havana's 220-year-old Baroque cathedral, gleaming after recent renovations, late on New Year's Day for its elaborate, 25-hour high mass that turned into a seven-day rally. They wore light buttons proclaiming "John Paul II—messiah of truth and hope," and applauded as Jaime Cardinal Ortega reminded them that Christmas had just been celebrated as a public holiday in Cuba for the first time since Castro cancelled it in 1960. Then they joined hands above their heads and chanted the Pope's name over and over. Gustavo Andújar, head of the Cuban Office of a Catholic film institute, looked on in amazement and said: "Sometimes we ask ourselves where all this religious feeling was hiding. It's very mysterious, and very mysterious."

The first thing Cubans say about the visit is that it will strengthen the church—or give it "more space," as a phrase taken up by everyone from the Cardinal down to market peddlers. But the second thing they quickly add is "Cuba is not Poland." Castro's government does no significant organized opposition. Ordinary people are afraid to voice any overt criticism. And Cuba's Catholic Church does not have the kind of mass following that it has in much of Latin America—or at Vatican, where it played a major role in compelling communism nine years ago with a powerful blessing hand from the Polish Pope.

Part of that is due to simple repression. In 1959, Cuba had 700 priests and 5,000 monks for 6.5 million people, as well as a network of Catholic schools and hospitals. By the mid-1960s, only 200 priests and a few hundred nuns were left; the schools and hospitals had been taken over by the government. Cuba was officially declared an atheist state, and believers were barred from membership in the Communist party—a prerequisite for any good job. By the '70s only a tiny minority of Cubans—a mass per cent by the church's own figures—attended mass at least twice a year.

Castro started easing up in the late 1980s. Some observers believe he wanted to widen his support; others say he realized that there were important points of contact between his socialist state and the church's teachings on social justice. Havana's assistant chief boy who was educated by Jesuits, he declared that the revolution was not incompatible with Christian principles and said that religious people had been unfairly treated. In 1989, the Vatican was

deep into negotiations with Havana for a papal visit—but the government alerted it because of the enthusiasm of the Communist regime in Europe. The interest was simply too sensitive.

In 1993, Cuba was declared no longer "atheist," but simply "secular," and religious believers were allowed to join the party. Out of negotiations for a visit began once again, culminating in a 35-minute private meeting between the Pope and Castro in Havana in November 1993. The Cuban leader emerged from the session calling it "a miracle."

By then the country's churches, both Catholic and Protestant, were filling up. Rev. Ignacio Cruz, one of few priests at Havana's Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a neighborhood last crumbling Gothic structure in the city's historic center, remembers when only a couple of dozen people would show up for mass. The church went into survival mode. "Our task was to stay faithful, wait for Catholics to come back." These days, 400 or 500 crowd the pews on a typical Sunday, and the church has started a youth group for the teenagers and students who are flocking in. A family discussion group meets regularly and the dark old building with its vast stained-glass windows is finally being renovated. There is life again at Sacred Heart.

Change has not, however, come easily. There are still only 290 priests for a population that has swelled to 11 million. And even after Castro's encounter with the Pope at the Vatican, it took months before the government followed through on a promise to allow the church to hold outdoor masses (it held 12 last fall). With only days to go before John Paul was to arrive in Havana on Jan. 21, church leaders were protesting that Cardinal Ortega had still not been allowed to appear on state television to publicize the visit. Elections in Cuba, a national assembly were held on Sunday, Jan. 31, and until they were over, even the official line, the media,

Ortega not allowed on state TV to publicize the papal visit



would devote itself to crowding a massive turnout—and giving Castro a rousing round of applause just before the Pope's arrival. Anyone reading Granma, the country's only daily paper, could be forgiven for asking: what sort of master that the election was a sham everyone from the beginning, exactly 601 candidates for 601 seats, chosen as a process orchestrated by the Communist party (it is, in fact, impossible for a candidate to lose. There is space on the ballot only to vote Yes. Any other vote or mark is considered invalid—and not included in the official total).

And despite the openness in church attendance, Catholics still draw the allegiance of only a minority of Cubans—perhaps 30 percent by some

estimates. Many are indifferent to religion after decades of socialist rule, while some follow the Protestant churches that have been aggressively recruiting in the past few years. Even Jehovah's Witnesses are going door-to-door in Havana. And many a fervent follower of Santería, based on African tribal myths brought to Cuba by slaves, or even worship of the African gods with no reference to Catholic saints in a uniquely Cuban blend of faith and mystery. By day, they pray before a figure of Santa Barbara, by night, they wear strips that some image as Cheung, Santería's male god of war. In Cuba, it has been said, the gods change their sex at midnight.

The Cubes that Pope John Paul will see is stumbling through a process of change that is as in the words of a Western diplomat in Havana, "prudent, painful and still insecure." Its leading partner

wasn't in the early 1990s when economies collapsed in Europe. Its economy went into a tailspin, and was scratched back from the brink of disaster in 1993 only through measures that were once anathema to Castro's socialist ideals: limited free enterprise, an opening to foreign investment of Jewish Canadian companies leading the list by some measure, and allowing Cubans to possess foreign currency.

That effectively meant creating a parallel dollar economy alongside the first one based on the mostly worthless Cuban peso. But the medicine has not taken hold. Economic growth after reaching seven per cent in 1996, fell to barely two per cent last year—and the outlook is no better for 1998. Tourism is now promoted as the chief motor of the economy. Some



Miguel
Alejandro,
composer,
practicante

Cuba is stumbling through a painful process of change



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WORLD

INSIDE CUBA

1.7 million foreigners visited in 1997, including about 100,000 Canadians (the second-largest group after Italians). The government's target is two million tourists annually by the year 2000.

The result is a hybrid system that stands as a mockery of the tired slogan that will fill billboards and empty walls across the country: "We believe in socialism; we produce, or we die." "Ever onward, total victory!" alongside a stylized portrait of the regime's acrobatic saint, the married guerrilla leader Che Guevara. The official line is that Cuba was reborn when Castro took power in 1959. Before that, go the story, Cubans were forced to prostitute themselves before the power of the Yankee dollar: rich foreigners came to play while local people starved, and, most shameful of all, Havana was known as the brothel of the Caribbean.

Two prominent and traumatic social revolutions later, things have in many ways come full circle. Cubans who want anything above the bare necessities of life must have dollars; the government has made living foreigners to the point a matter of highest economic importance, and Havana is once again quietly notorious as the sex capital of the region. Thousands of young women spend of their meagre pay for a few dollars. In a country where a professional earns the peso equivalent of just \$20 or \$25 a month at her day job, for women soliciting foreigners along the Malecon, Havana's swarming sidewalk drive, include doctors, lawyers and engineers. A cruise ship in the city's tourist areas is a riddle used made from Italy, Spain or Canada with a steering, engine-clad Cuban girl on each arm and a slightly dazed look on his face. Americans are also getting in on the action. By one estimate, 50,000 visited Cuba last year despite the government's economic embargo, which makes it impossible to travel directly to the island from the United States (most go via Canada or Mexico) and illegal for U.S. citizens to spend money there without special permission.

For several years, in tourism brochures and the dollar economy book trade, Cuban officials continued to maintain that prostitution was just a marginal phenomenon. The government even gave aid to tourists with sex-fraud allegations, and a woman and the slogan "Come, and be seduced." So impressed was Castro himself that the revolution had done away with the sex trade that officials were forced to deny the existence of their own eyes. "We didn't want to recognize that it existed," says Carlos Fernandez de Cossio, who heads the North American office branch of Cuba's foreign ministry.

Rev Eicker Mendez, the pastor at Old Havana's First Presbyterian Church, says prostitution is part of a pattern of social problems emerging as Cuban men's slow and uneasy transition. Mendez is a fair man with a careerist face—no surprise after laboring for 30 years in a country officially hostile to his beliefs. The furniture and computer in his spartan office were gifts from the United Church of Canada, used to run programs serving 1,000 people in a poor, mainly black part of the city.

Mendez makes no political judgments, but he ticks off a list of social woes that have become more and more acute in the past few years: "Crime, alcoholism, corruption, prostitutes." It is, he says, "very difficult for me to accept. I travelled around saying that in Cuba we did not have these problems. But they are really going up, and I feel sad about

Looking for progress

January brings important visitors to Cuba. This month, it's the Pope. One year ago, Foreign Affairs Minister Loyd Austin worked to Havana and signed an ambitious 14-point accord setting a framework for co-operation between Canada and Cuba, including the delicate areas of justice and human rights. Twelve months later, officials on both sides speak in cautious tones. Canadian Ambassador Keith Christie says the accord has been "incredibly productive," while Cuban official Carlos Fernandez de Cossio acknowledges that "such things take time."

Another Canadian official familiar with the process of implementing the agreement, but unconstrained by diplomatic niceties, offers a much blunter assessment of the results. "Sweet!—all!"

There has been, to be sure, a list of talk. Canadians went to Havana in May for a joint seminar on children's rights, and Cubans came to Ottawa the next month for another session that focused on women's rights. James Hathaway, international law professor at Osgoode Hall law school in Toronto, completed a report last spring identifying areas of Cuba's justice system where Canada might provide advice. Cuban officials are at it studying it. But both sides say Canada could help Cuba update its corporate and family laws, improve its knowledge of legal systems around the world, and increase contacts between lawyers, judges and justice ministers from the two countries.

The toughest subject is human rights. The Cubans, in fact, do not even admit they have a human rights problem despite their one-party system and independent estimates putting the number of political prisoners close to 700. Fernandez, director of North American affairs at Cuba's foreign ministry, insists the issue arises only because of the "unfounded prejudice" against his country fuelled by America's propaganda. Still, in its talks, Cuba is willing to listen to discuss the issue with Ottawa because "we believe, like all

have an honest concern, not an opportunistic agenda." In fact, he adds, the accord with Ottawa is Cuba's only agreement with another country that sets parameters human rights. Christie says Canada remains "concerned" about violations of rights in Cuba, but he says its constructive approach will work best in the long run. "The question is, how do you affect the system?" he says. "You can shout at people, but this government doesn't take it very well. Or you can sit down with them and have an impact over time."

One result came last May when a dissident Cuban writer, Octavio Samuel Sainza Herrer, was released from prison after five years following an appeal from Austin on his behalf. Sainza was allowed to go into exile—he lives in Toronto—giving him his freedom but also preventing him from directly challenging the Castro government. A muted result, and one which underlines the dilemma faced by countries trying to influence an intransigent regime.



Makes a diplomat on a deeper mission over human rights

It's All around Mendez's church the old houses in a dilapidated state the roads are strewn with uncollected garbage, people head home to get water up a mile to Dorcas of state-owned public buses and deal shortages on the stuff of everyday life. The unpopularity of this while the government still scares Cubans by telling them that moving to a market economy will destroy the social benefits of the revolution, (these benefits are crumbling before them).

Like Mendez, religious people of all denominations have joined to stir civil politics. Sometimes, though, it comes to them. The three will have a taste of that on Jan. 22, the second day of his Cuban tour: life is to go to Santa Clara, 200 km east of Havana, and celebrate a mass at the city's baseball stadium. Just a dozen streets away, Maria Felicia Matos is waiting with a letter for her boy. It is from her daughter, Dania, 33, a human rights activist who has been on a hunger strike with six others since Oct. 9. On that day, police took her to the local prison for women as what her mother says was a trumped-up charge of kidnapping her brother.

Now in the prison hospital and has lost 25 lb., her mother says she is weak but determined to go on—as long as the Pope comes to town. Her letter also asks John Paul to intercede, to persuade the authorities to release the local human rights supporters and stop harassing them. "We think the Pope is the only one who can shake," says Maria Matos. "He's our hero."

The chances of that happening, of course, are slimly on the order of three long after life but squabbles words. "It's out of their reach," says Matos. But Cuban standards where overt protest is practically unheard of, the hunger strike is a bold act. While Cuba's much vaunted new openness touches parts of the economy, there is nothing resembling free speech. Officers can arrest a doctor in eastern Cuba has been detained for his conflict after speaking to a foreign journalist about the need for more access against chronic drug, a tropical disease that the government had said had been wiped out.

A few prominent dissidents are allowed to operate, and sometimes travel abroad. But they have no access to the media, they are kept under surveillance, and their lesser-known supporters are frequently harassed—or worse. Eduardo Sanchez, a general mix of 50, served a dozen in eastern Cuba has been detained for his conflict after speaking to a foreign journalist about the need for more access against chronic drug, a tropical disease that the government had said had been wiped out.



Havana has market economic growth is at a sluggish two per cent.

A hybrid economy depends on tourism

industry official, "where such a powerful country has maintained such a blockade against such a small and poor country."

Fernandez compares it to Britain in the early 1940s—being the right of Nazi Germany across the English channel and fighting for his very survival. "If someone in England wanted to create a party that called for accommodation with Germany at that time, I am sure it wouldn't have been allowed. The United States pressures us to open up space for their political forces, but it just wants to undermine the government. So our government finds it necessary to defend itself by any means possible." And says, assets Fernandez. There is no logical link between capitalism systems and human rights. End of discussion.

Even the Cuban government's harshest critics have stopped predicting basic change anytime soon. The time frame for change, surely all observers agree, is set by Castro's health. As long as he remains in charge, the deadlock between Havana and Washington will remain, and his unshakable charisma will keep his government solidly in power. It has been clearly stated that the commander-in-chief will be around for a number of years to come—and that if his line on his side is to remain reform and continuing. The most that Pope John Paul, by that calculation, can do is to help Cuba's church grow stronger so that, when the inevitable transition comes, there will be at least one national institution independent of the government and able to help smooth the way. In the meantime, the blockade prediction stands: it will be a turbulent year in Cuba. □

300 or so, he says, are in custody, but less is known about them. The total is down from about 1,000 a year ago, he says.

Sanchez brings out another paper and unfolds it on the table. It is a hand-drawn map of Cuba, with colored dots painted on. Red ones show the location of about 40 high-security prisons, blue locates the 50 low-security jails, and about 200 green dots show so-called "correctional work camps." Sanchez's finger brushes the map where the Yareyero peninsula juts north about 100 km east of Havana. Most Canadian tour packages take visitors to Yareyero's stunning beaches. Just south and west, Sanchez's map shows five red dots and some 30 green ones. "I wanted," he says, "to find out if any Canadians know that so near these beaches are some of the worst prisons."

Cuban officials have no trace at all for such questions. Even the younger generation of rising left-leaning bureaucrats, the so-called Young Ones or Young Union Members to whom many observers look for change, staunchly defend Castro's leadership line on dissent. "Everything—from the rocky economy to the lack of basic political freedom—is blamed on the invading U.S. hostility. I don't think you can find another example," says Carlos Fernandez, the foreign

World NOTES

DEATH PENALTY AVERTED

A jury of seven women and five men convicted Tony Melton of conspiracy and involuntary manslaughter in the Oklahoma City bombing of 1995, but was dismissed when it was unable to agree on a sentence. U.S. District Court Judge Richard Matsch will hand down the sentence of at least a life term, but the jury's departure eliminated the possibility of the death penalty—which a judge alone cannot issue. Outside the court in Denver, jurors said the government had failed to connect Melton conclusively with the truck bomb that killed 168 people.

ALGERIA'S TOLL RISES

Algeria mounted pressure from North African and European diplomats to allow an international investigation of the violence that has killed more than 65,000 people there since 1992. More than 3,500 died in a series of massacres in the first week of the holy month of Ramadan, which began on Dec. 30.

DIANA'S LEGACY

Still straggling from the outrage over its mismanaged response to the death of August of Diana, Princess of Wales, the British Royal Family asked a polling firm to help it find the key to regaining the public's confidence. Meanwhile, thousands of callers from around the world overwhelmed 220 telephone lines set up to let so-called (at \$22 a minute) to visit Diana grave site at her childhood home this summer.

MOI PROMISES ACTION

Sworn in for a fifth term as Kenya's leader after a five-candidate election in which he won just 40 per cent of the vote, President Daniel arap Moi, 74, promised a stronger link against corruption and poverty. Former vice-president Mwai Kibaki, who finished second with 30 per cent, claimed he would have won in a fair election.

IRISH MILITANTS ARRESTED

Police in Dublin seized about 1,000 kg of explosives and arrested four men suspected of trying to bomb the six-month-long Irish Republican Army truce in Belfast, detectives took four militant Protestants in for questioning about attacks on Catholic civilian targets in IRA dissident group associations. A Protestant militant in prison on Dec. 27.



CANDID CAMERA: U.S. President Bill Clinton expressed anger that TV crews and a photographer had been on the beach and took pictures of him and his wife, Hillary.

Clinton was in fact more unimpressed at the presence of media crews and photographers on the beach. Clinton was in fact more unimpressed at the presence of media crews and photographers on the beach. Clinton was in fact more unimpressed at the presence of media crews and photographers on the beach.

Israel's Netanyahu hangs on

I looked—again—like the end for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, but he held on. The hardline leader was left in control of just 41 seats in the 120-seat Knesset when Foreign Minister David Levy quit the governing coalition, taking his four Likud party members with him. A longtime rival of Netanyahu, Levy accused the government of "abandoning" the Israeli poor in its new budget. "They've endangered me at least 10 times in the past 18 months, and look, I'm still here," Netanyahu crowed after the budget passed—by 58 to 55 votes—and he commended a power. But stormy days lie ahead for the problem-plagued prime minister. He faces two tough votes in coming weeks on new government troops out of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, and on the capital of religious exemptions. Either could split his fractious coalition, made up of right-wing nationalists (who oppose handing over more land to the Palestinians), and ultra-Orthodox Jewish parties (who want to control conventional Netanyahu is promising limited troop redeployment, but he is under U.S. pressure for a substantial handover of territory, and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai says he will quit if there is no troop redeployment within three months. If the coalition survives, there could be elections soon. But Netanyahu has survived tough times before.

The Unabomber suspect submits to testing

The trial of accused Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski begins in Denver as he is tried to fire his lawyers, rejected a defense of insanity, apparently attacked suicide, then agreed to psychological testing. The truth profession was made in a second of reading guard books that killed three people and injured 29. His trial opened in Sacramento, Calif., with Kaczynski turning his back on his sibling mother and his brother, David, whose suspects left police to arrest the accused at his isolated mother in Montana. On Kaczynski's second day in court, officials said he had apparently tried to hang himself in his cell with his underwear.

Plotting a takeover

CanWest Global closes in on the Griffiths family's control of WIC

BY JENNIFER HUNTER

The rumor is no delusion: that Vancouver's youngest group chairman, Malcolm Perry, couldn't resist using it as his lead-in. Emily Griffiths, mistress of the once-industrial Griffiths family, controlling shareholder of WIC Western International Communications Ltd., is poised to sell her 50-per-cent controlling interest in the media giant. Standing first in line as buyer is CanWest Global Communications Corp., of Winnipeg, which has long coveted WIC's string of television and radio properties. "We believe at some point one or both of the majority voting shareholders will want to sell their shares, and if they do we want to be there," CanWest executive vice-president Leonard Ager, son of the famously charming H. (Bud) Ager, told *Maclean's*.

Analysts are betting that could happen before the end of the year—and the Agers are crossing their fingers. As is their control on WIC, the managers at WIC are shuffling all the time. "As far as I know, this is nothing more than speculation," says Terry O'Donovan, WIC's communications director. "Every year about the 15th of March, general meeting, we've heard rumors like this." But there are several factors that give new weight to the speculation. Emily Griffiths is 75 and her family's only significant wealth is tied up in WIC shares. Last spring, she retired from WIC's board. Her sons, Frank Jr. and Arthur, have no involvement in the business of the company. In fact, Emily Griffiths pushed Frank Jr. out of his job in WIC senior vice-president two years ago. Arthur reluctantly ceded control of their Bay Sports & Entertainment, which owns the Vancouver Canucks hockey franchise and basketball's Grizzlies, to Seattle businessman Jody McCaw. When the Canucks dismissed Tim Quinn as president and general manager late last year, Arthur told reporters that he found out about the firing from radio reports, and complained he now



Leonard Ager: coveting radio, TV properties

has to buy hockey and basketball tickets like every other spectator. Frank Jr.'s only involvement is on WIC's board, where he is joined by his sister, Mary, and her husband, Klaus Perbe.

Meanwhile, CanWest keeps buying non-voting shares in the company (WIC has a two-tiered share structure, the voting shares are held by the Griffiths and the Allard family of Edmonton.) In December, CanWest boosted its non-voting ownership to 30 per cent, making it WIC's largest non-voting shareholder. "It's no secret we will fully invest again in the company subject to the price," says Leonard Ager. Because of its huge share position, CanWest will probably gain control of WIC even if Emily Griffiths wants to sell her shares to another group. The reason is a "control" clause in WIC's shareholder agreement that kicks in once the majority stake in the voting shares is transferred. The clause turns all non-voting shares into voting ones and will give CanWest control—Emily's shares make up only about five per cent of the total, even though she holds the majority of voting shares. Buying up WIC shares also gives CanWest a strong defense position: no one would be able to take control of WIC without first asking the Ager. Last year, the Ager arranged \$1 billion in financing and Leonard Ager acknowledges that money could be used to fund WIC share purchases. "We like talking financing available because we're quite growth-oriented and we're constantly looking at acquisitions," he adds.

What CanWest particularly prizes about WIC are its four televi-

AN ALL-STAR CAST



**WIC Western
WIC International
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- Nine TV stations and 12 radio stations
- Five pay-TV channels
- 14 per cent of Canadian Satellite Communications Inc.
- 10 per cent of Regency's Inc., a direct-to-home satellite service
- WIC Canada's wireless cable company



**CanWest
Global
Communications Corp.**

- Eight TV stations in Canada
- Australia's Network Ten (75 per cent equity stake, 15 per cent of voting shares)
- Two TV networks and one radio network in New Zealand
- 45 per cent of Ireland's TV3, to be launched this fall



News studio at WIC-owned BCTV in Vancouver: waiting to see if a "hostile" close will kick in

sion stations in Alberta—where CanWest lost a CRTC bid to Muzi Joba's Craig family last year—in its interest in a digital satellite service, and WIC Canada's, a wireless cable company. However, CanWest isn't alone in its WIC buying spree. Last November Shaw Communications spent \$20 million to buy a small lot of WIC non-voting shares. "WIC's share price has gone up due to all the speculation," says one analyst. "What's left for Ager to convince the Griffiths family that he is the right person to sell to?"

WIC's annual meeting will be held next week in Vancouver, and even though CanWest has been denied its request for two seats on the board it will be watching closely. "We believe there are some clouds on the WIC horizon and we were hoping to be on the board to help solve those," says Ager. "We have concerns about the performance of WIC's radio assets, the electronic digital-delivery assets and the cellular video company."

If analysts are guessing right, Leonard and his dad could have their wish to be on the board very soon. In any case, the feeling on the street is that the company needs a stranger direction. "This is weekly managed company," says one WIC watcher. "The high demand for television and radio advertising is making poor operating strategy." One contributing factor has been the revolving door of WIC senior managers. President Doug Hickey left in 1990 and was replaced by John Lacey, who moved to run Scott's Hospitality Inc. and had no previous broadcast experience. Corporate secretary Jonathan Festinger left to head Toronto-based Hutton Broadcasting's new TV station in Vancouver. Chairman Edmund King, the only independent representative on the company board, recently resigned. "If I buy into WIC," says analyst Warren, "more heads will roll."

Since the death of the company's founder, Frank Griffiths Sr., almost four years ago, the efforts to wrest the company from his surviving relatives have been onerous, frequently played out in the B.C. Supreme Court. The first takeover was with the Allard family, which owned a significant stake of the non-voting shares. The Allards went to court, but the Griffiths convinced them to drop the suit in exchange for voting shares. In 1989, CanWest launched a takeover bid of \$24 a share, for a total of \$636 million. Ager also went to court to argue that the agreement between the Allards and Griffiths should have triggered the control clause. The takeover bid was rejected and Ager's court case failed on the grounds that Emily Griffiths had not ceded majority control. Two former directors of the company also went to court to try to force a sale, but last March their bid was turned down.

There are whispers about others besides the Ager who might want to buy WIC. Vancouver billionaire Jimmy Paterson, who could certainly afford it, the Allard family, Shaw Communications, and perhaps even Hutton. Ager says it's not clear who will emerge to challenge CanWest. "The Allards have expressed interest in the past," he says. "Baton has merged with CTV and has its own national system. No one is certain what Shaw's motives are and I don't know if it has the financing capability."

For now, watching the WIC showdown is almost as endlessly entertaining as following *Dyn of Our Love*, one of the inimitable soap operas shown on the CanWest Global system. Will the Griffiths, strained by family turmoil, continue to hold on? Will Emily Griffiths cash out? Will Ager get his way? Stay tuned for the next gripping episode. □

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Personal Business

Pensions and divorce

A person who has suffered through separation and divorce knows how profoundly alienating the experience can be. Feelings of anger, betrayal and grief collide with a long list of practical concerns, from where you and your ex-spouse will reside to the highly charged issue of child custody and support.

With no easy peasy problems, it's hardly surprising that most people who are wrestling with divorce spend little thought for their pension. At the best of times, the intricacies of pension planning can seem rather dauntingly complex. In the emotional maelstrom of marriage break-

down, the pension is often the last thing on most people's minds. Unfortunately, divorcing partners sometimes wind up paying a big penalty for that oversight, as illustrated by a recent case before the Ontario Court of Appeal.

In 1988, Ted and Marilyn Best of Ottawa separated after 17 years of marriage, when they were both 52. A former high-school principal and chairman of the Ottawa Board of Education, Ted Best had been contributing to the workers' pension plan for 32 years. The accumulated value of his pension at that point was more than \$400,000.

The issue before the court was how to divide that asset. Ted's lawyer, James Blyth, insisted that the pension should be pro-rated based on the number of years he contributed to the plan and the duration of the marriage. By that formula, Marilyn Best would be entitled to one-half of 70% of the pension, or \$75,740 before tax.

Marilyn Best's lawyer, Jennifer Lynch, argued for a radically different approach that involves calculating a pension's accrued value at the date of marriage and deducting that amount from its value at separation. What's left is the "net" value of the pension during the marriage, which is split 50-50 between the husband and wife.

For years, actuaries and family law specialists across Canada have hotly debated the pros and cons of various approaches to

division. Why the controversy? In most plans, the value of a member's pension grows exponentially as time passes, because pension contributions start off small in the early years, then increase with earnings. A few years of plan membership during a marriage can account for most of a pension's value, even if the employee contributed to the plan for many years before the marriage.

During the value-added approach, the amount of Ted Best's pension that was accumulated during the marriage was calculated at \$372,043. Instead of \$75,740, Mrs. Best would be entitled to a pension payment of \$406,000.

In its ruling last fall, the Court of Appeal sided with Marilyn Best, awarding her \$447,048 as an equalization payment as well as monthly spousal support of \$2,508 and legal costs of \$45,000.

Ted Best, whose own legal costs totalled \$50,000, is now seeking leave to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court of Canada. Wayne Woods, an Ottawa attorney who appeared as an expert witness in the lower court trial, says the issue is of enormous importance to divorcing couples across Canada, since a pension is often a family's most valuable asset after the matrimonial house. In some cases, the pension is worth the entire net worth of the house.

To make matters worse, there are numerous inconsistencies among the pension and family law acts in various provinces as they pertain to pension division. As a result, speaking the language of Ontario and British Columbia is most desirable to compromised spouses—usually worse—while the rules in Quebec and Manitoba tend to benefit pension holders.

"It's a patchwork system, and the issues involved are incredibly complex," says Woods, who chairs a special task force of the Canadian Institute of Actuaries that attempts to come up with a common approach to pension valuation. That wouldn't solve all the problems, but it might prevent some of the prolonged legal battles that can complicate the already difficult process of divorce.

Business NOTES

CARTOON COUP

Canadian investors scored a cartoon coup with the announcement of an estimated \$25-million deal between Toronto-based Nelvana Ltd. and CBS Television to fill the U.S. network's Saturday morning schedule. Under the two-year agreement, Nelvana will create six series for CBS's fall lineup.

PETRO PARTNERSHIP

Calgary-based Petro-Canada and Ultramar-Danisco Shermak Corp. of San Antonio, Tex., announced a joint venture to save \$625 million over several years. The two companies will combine most of their marketing, refining and transportation operations. The deal will likely lead to job losses and the closure of some gas stations.

DISTRIBUTION DRAMA

The Quebec government backed Alliance Communications Corp. of Toronto has been distributing films in the province because its main distribution office is not in Quebec. The Canadian Association of Film Distributors and Exporters said the province discriminates against Canadian companies, saving that major Hollywood studios are exempt from the provision.

NEWSPRINT TRADE WAR

Chinese newspaper producers accused their Canadian rivals of dumping newsprint in China. The complaint targets Donohue Inc., Abitibi-Consolidated Inc. and Ameron Inc., all based in Montreal, as well as one American and three South Korean companies.

BANKS FIGHT BACK

Canada's major banks plan to spend \$30 million over five years to improve their image. The campaign will likely include a soft-focus business for commercial consumers and TV commercials using the slogan "Banking is better understood."

SHAW DELAYED

The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission delayed a bid by Calgary-based Shaw Communications Inc. to buy 45 per cent of Mediastream Sports, a 24-hour sports channel, while it seeks public comment. The move signals the CRTC's concern that cable firms may give better deal positions to channels they own.

New hope for the jobless

Jobless Canadians are finally beginning to benefit from the country's economic resurgence. The national unemployment rate dropped to 8.6 per cent in December—its lowest level in seven years—down from 9.2 per cent in the previous month.

The improved economy of Canada's western provinces attracted a brief end-of-week rally in the Canadian dollar—all but wiped out later by profit-taking—and allowed long-term interest rates to fall on the bond market. That, in turn, prompted the big banks to ease mortgage rates by up to three tenths of a percentage point. The five-year rate dropped to 6.85 per cent.

Statistics Canada said 12,000 jobs were created in December, for an overall gain in 1997 of 262,000 jobs. The private sector accounted for most of the growth, generating 202,000 jobs.



Glycylar plant in Kingston, Ont., manufacturing shows ahead

The number of self-employed people grew by 87,000, while continued government budget slashing caused the public sector to shrink

by 67 per cent, from 15,000 jobs. In December alone, manufacturing added 28,000 jobs, while the health and social services sector created 38,000 positions. Youth joblessness remained the dark spot in the employment rate among young people aged 15 to 24 in December stood at 15.8 per cent, down slightly from 16.1 per cent in November.

More static at Cantel

Battered by fierce competition, Rogers Cable Mobile Communications Inc. appointed its fifth CEO in as many years and said it may opt for a bid to turn around the wireless phone company. The announcement followed the resignation of Cantel chief executive Sam Kabbala, 54. The former AT&T Corp. executive was considered a favorite lieutenant of Ted Rogers, the chairman of Cantel's parent company, Toronto-based Rogers Communications Inc. Kabbala will be replaced by Charles Hoffman, 46, a former executive with Sprint Corp.'s U.S. wireless subsidiary.

Cantel has been hit hard by price-cutting in the mobile communications market and by the introduction of new digital phone services by Bell Canada, the company of Pakenham, Ont., and Microtel Telecommunications Inc. of Montreal. Cantel declined to say how many of its 3,100 employees may lose their jobs.

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

With prices weak or falling for most industrial products and raw materials, economists are becoming increasingly concerned about the threat of deflation. On average, prices for raw materials were 5.1 per cent lower in November than a year earlier, mainly due to the declining cost of crude oil, wood and nonferrous metals. Reduced demand from Japan may exacerbate the situation in the months ahead, putting the squeeze on Canada's resource products, depressing corporate profits and stock prices.

RAW MATERIAL PRICES

Change in year ending November, 1997 (seasonally adjusted)

Oil/feeds	-13.3%
Grains	-9.8%
Ferrous metals	-9.7%
Nonferrous metals	-0.8%
Vegetable products	+8%

"The Canadian economy is poised for another good year in 1998, in spite of the so-called Asian flu and recent interest rate increases."

—TD Bank

"The Bank of Canada is in no danger of mind to raise interest rates."

—Lakeland Brothers

Canada

"Canada's trade deficit for services fell to \$2.2 billion in the third quarter of 1997, its lowest quarterly level since 1994."

—Statistics Canada



Peter C. Newman

Tales from a mellowed Harrison McCain

This week, Harrison McCain will be joined at Toronto's Royal York Hotel by 229 of his most intimate friends to celebrate his 70th birthday. But the French Fry King has mixed feelings about this anniversary. "When you're 62 and turn 63, that's a year," he told me in an interview from his Florenceville, N.B., home last week. "Skip-year to 67 in a year. It's 69 to 70, my God, that's something like aging 10 years overnight!"

No longer extroverted or winged, McCain admits that he has become "dull as hell. I don't know what to say to entertain you at the moment." The past half-decade has taken its toll. He and his brother Wallace, who ran McCain Foods Ltd., the New Brunswick-based multinational food company, as co-CEOs for most of 40 years,

split over the family's lines of succession in 1983, and the rift has not been healed. In the same five years, McCain also suffered a rare, but heart attack, his wife, Billie, died at 65 in 1994 after a long struggle with cancer, and he lost his younger son, Peter, at 39, in a snowmobile accident.

His zest for life hasn't diminished, but he has grown more low and controls his tongue better. In my many interviews with him over the years, he has used profanity as much as a cuss and wonderfully effective way that I once halfheartedly considered editing out tapes and issuing a CD of Harrison McCain's Greatest Hits. No more. "My mother wouldn't approve all of that cursing and swearing in his time," he says.

The family feud of finally ended when Wallace McCain was kicked out as co-CEO by a New Brunswick arbitration court. The younger McCain brother has moved to Toronto, where he bought and now runs Maple Leaf Foods, but he and his branch of the family still own about one-third of McCain Foods Holdings, the family holding company that controls the New Brunswick food-processing giant. "There are still strained relations as part of the McCain's," Harrison acknowledges. "Ownership is divided equally among Wallace and me at about 33 per cent each, with my brothers Andrew's and Robert's families holding the rest. They support me, always do, so 33 per cent is never going to be a waste of 66, right? I wish I could say the balance is all gone, but that would be an overstatement."

In terms of succession, his comments are brief and to the point. "Our family," McCain emphasizes, will continue to manage McCain's, "but having no successors as part of the McCain's, neither of us are a CEO. Our legacy of the family quarrels is that McCain has added several heavyweight outsiders to his operating board, including CNR president and CEO Phil Teller, Victor Vauz, the successful head of Fishery Products International Ltd. (Dorset, N.S.), the former CEO of Nova, and Ken Crea, former vice-president of Noranda. "Wow," says McCain, "if something happened to me, do

you think all those guys are just going to sit back and say, 'Oh well. I guess this is the end of the company, we'll just wind up.' No damn way. There will be family continuity in place."

As well as making and marketing food products, McCain Foods—which will top \$3 billion in total sales this year—owns a large trucking division (Dag & Ross) and a national courier company (Sane Dry), plus an industrial leaders manufacturer (Thomas Equipment) and a leading subsidiary (Fast Track). "The real news," he says, "is Canada's direct dollar, which has turned out to be a lot more important in spurring exports than the U.S. free-trade deal, which has become relatively innocuous in its effects."

McCain's family has some red, with son Mark working as an analyst in the McCain corporate office in Toronto, Laura helping her

husband run a small winery in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley, and daughter Ann married to a Toronto contractor while Gillian, the baby of the family, has moved to New York City and has just written *Phone Call Me*, a novel history of punk rock. "She has sold 35,000 copies and when I was in London recently, I walked into a bookstore on the Strand and bought a copy," reports her proud, company father. "I'd like to see my kids be happy and successful," he says, "and I want my company to be at least twice as big and successful as it is now. We're the world's number 1 french-fry maker, but I'd like to be first in some other global brands, such as frozen pizzas, as well. We have guys doing marketing visits in China, South Africa, Poland and India right now."

He will work hard, but McCain is taking more holidays. He enjoys three-day summer vacations at a waterfront place he bought 200 km south of Florenceville at St. Andrews-by-the-Sea and also regularly at Sun Valley, Idaho, or in Switzerland, shunning down the luxury slopes of St. Moritz and Gstaad.

His company is meanwhile continuing its expansion into the United States. The \$675-million purchase last year of the food-service division of Orr-Kellogg was just a start. Something like 83 per cent of the company's business is now outside Canada (in 90 countries) and McCain spends 140 nights a year on the sleeping compartment aboard the company's triple-enroute Falcon-50 Dassault jet, so he has to go from inspecting his french fries plants in Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. French fries account for 60 per cent of McCain Foods' sales, and it's an area that retains top growth priority.

No wonder Harrison McCain remains a champion of the only little creature. Despite his heart problems, McCain still changes tires at least twice a week. "It's OK," he explains, "they're made with Canada, so there's no cholesterol!" Then, slipping back into character, McCain adds a typical Harrison punch line: "We're too cheap to add the tire. Costs too God damn much!"



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DAVE JOHNSON, an Executive Vice President of Ponting International Inc.

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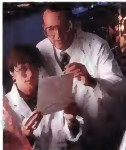
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Spousal Plans for Splitting Income

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An RRSP Investment for the Cash-Strapped

Creditor-Proof Your RRSP

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A Summary of the Rules

Your RRSP is undoubtedly the best way to save for retirement while deferring taxes. You can contribute to an RRSP as long as you are 69 years old or younger and have earned income.

Earned income includes salary, wages and net business income, but excludes investment income and pension income.

The deadline for contributions for the 1997 tax year is Monday, March 2, 1998. Your deductible contribution is 18 per cent of your 1996 earned income to a maximum of \$13,500. From this, you must subtract any pension adjustments if you are a member of a pension plan. However, you can add to your contribution room any missed contributions from previous years beginning in 1991. If you don't use all your contribution room this year, you can carry it forward indefinitely and get a tax deduction when you make your contribution at some future date.

If you retired during the year or were terminated, you can transfer to your RRSP, tax-free, a portion of your severance pay as a retirement allowance for years worked prior to 1996. The limit is \$2,000 a year plus an additional \$1,500 a year for years prior to 1990, provided you were not a member of a pension plan or deferred profit sharing plan operated by your employer.



How Much Will You Have?

Look up your RRSP as much more than a tax break, because unless you are a longtime member of a very generous pension plan, your RRSP will probably be your primary source of income when you retire.

The amount of money you will accumulate in your plan or plans will depend on how much you contribute each year, the number of years you contribute and your average rate of return. Someone who starts at age 25 and contributes a little more than \$2,000 a year for 40 years while earning an average annual return of 10 per cent will accumulate \$1 million. If that person waits just five years to age 30 to start a program, he or she will have to almost double contributions to reach that \$1-million target by age 65.

A million-dollar RRSP will realistically provide annual income of about \$90,000 during your retirement years, with the actual amount depending on the return earned in a registered retirement income fund or on annuity rates at retirement.

You should monitor the value of your RRSP and set some targets based on your estimated income needs. Plan to accumulate about \$100,000 for each \$5,000 of required income at retirement. You may want to raise your sights somewhat higher to compensate for inflation. Money loses half its value in just 17 years with four-per-cent inflation and in about 36 years using 2-per-cent inflation.

By the time you reach your mid-50s, you should be setting retirement income goals, monitoring your progress closely and making adjustments to your savings programs if necessary to make sure you will reach your objectives. It is fairly easy to estimate what your RRSP will be worth when you retire, and the income your plan or plans will provide. Virtually every bank, trust company, financial planner, mutual fund dealer, stockbroker and insurance agent in the country can give you some figures using computer programs. You provide the current value of your plan, your expected contributions and the rate of return you anticipate.

You can make your own estimates using a calculator, home computer or even future value tables. For example, if you are 10 years away from retirement and you have \$100,000 in your RRSP today, your current holdings will grow to \$258,400 by the time you retire, using a 10 per cent rate of return. That \$100,000 will grow to \$258,800 using an eight per cent return and \$178,900 using six per cent.

You will also make contributions for the next 10 years.

If you commit \$10,000 a year for 10 years you will accumulate an additional \$175,300 if you experience a 10 per cent average annual return. Your contributions will grow to \$156,450 with an eight per cent return and to \$138,720 with six per cent.

If it appears that you will be facing an income shortfall, you have two basic options. You can try to increase your rate of return by accepting more risk. Or you can set aside more funds for retirement either inside or outside your RRSP.

You will receive your Canada or Quebec Pension Plan benefits of up to \$1042, and depending on your income level, Old Age Security of up to \$4,876.

Spousal Plans for Splitting Income

Canadians have few opportunities for splitting investment income among family members to minimize taxes. An exception is a spousal RRSP in which you make part or all of your allowable contribution to a plan registered in the name of your husband or wife. The objective is to have during retirement two relatively equal streams of income. That way the two of you will pay less tax than if one spouse earned much more than the other. Usually the spouse with the higher income will make a contribution to a plan in the other spouse's name. Usually, the spouse who makes the contribution gets the deduction.

The plan has some limitations. Your contributions to your plan and your spouse's plan cannot exceed your maximum RRSP contribution more. Also, don't expect to cash in a spousal plan in a year or two to withdraw funds at your spouse's lower marginal tax rate. Revenue Canada looks at withdrawals from a spousal plan in the year the contribution was made or in the subsequent two years as a withdrawal by the contributor, who will then be required to include the amount as taxable income.

Moreover, Revenue Canada takes the view that the money was withdrawn from the most recent contribution made so you cannot avoid the tax by cashing in a plan that is more than three years old if you have made a contribution to a spousal plan during the most recent three years.

You can make a contribution to a spousal plan regardless of whether your spouse is contributing to a plan. Also, if you are older than 65 and, consequently, cannot have your own RRSP because of your age, you can still make a contribution to a spousal plan provided your spouse is 65 or younger, assuming you have earned income. You will get the deduction even though you cannot have a plan yourself.

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Picking the Best RRSP Investments

Small differences in rate of return can make a huge difference in the amount of money you will accumulate in your RRSP at retirement. Consequently, you should aim for growth with at least part of your RRSP savings. At the same time, you should weigh the risks of any investment you consider for your RRSP. While guaranteed deposits at five per cent are not as attractive as they were a few years ago, when interest rates were much higher, guaranteed investments, bonds, bond mutual funds, mortgage funds and other income-producing investments may still have a role in your retirement planning. This is especially the case if you have limited assets, or if you are approaching retirement age, and would find your retirement lifestyle suffering if the value of your investments declined.

Although equity mutual funds, as a group, have provided investors with hefty returns in recent years, some funds are a lot riskier than others. Of the 320 Canadian equity funds that have been available for one year or more, 204 have had rates of return of 20 per cent or better over the 12 months ending October 31, 1997. Another 29 had negative returns. Of 408 funds that invest outside Canada, 215 had rates of 20 per cent or more over the same 12 months, while 26 had negative returns, with 31 falling more than 20 per cent.

Usually the funds with the best and worst one-year performance figures are specialty mutual funds, which invest in one segment of the market. Moreover, their short-term performance is rarely a good indicator of the returns they will achieve in subsequent periods.

Excluding the specialty funds, many of the better-performing Canadian equity funds of the past year invested heavily in medium- and smaller-sized Canadian companies. The poorer performers generally had major portions of their assets tied up in precious metals shares and resource stocks. Many of the better-performing funds that invested outside Canada were in large- and medium-sized U.S. companies. The poorest performers were primarily funds that invested in the Far East.



If market volatility is a concern, you are probably best off investing most if not all of the money you have earmarked for equity funds in funds that invest in a broad range of companies and industries in the Canadian and U.S. markets. It is unlikely you will be among the market leaders every quarter. However, the odds are that you will not be among the bottom performing funds either, and in the long term you will probably earn an acceptable return.

You must also decide what percentage of your assets to hold in equities and what percentage should be invested for income in guaranteed investments or in bond or mortgage funds. Some people use a formula to decide their asset mix that decreases equity holdings with age. People in their 20s who have decades of time before retirement would invest everything for growth. As they grow older, they would reduce their equity exposure and increase their fixed income holdings. By the time they reach their 60s, they would hold 80 per cent fixed income and 20 per cent growth. Of course, people in their 60s or older who have substantial RRSP assets might want to be a bit more aggressive than this.

Alternatively, you may wish to change your asset mix to reflect your view about which markets will perform best over the foreseeable future, emphasizing equities when equities appear to be the best place to be and in bonds or treasury bills at other times.

Creditor-Proof Your RRSP

Unlike pension plans, assets in RRSPs can be seized by creditors with few exceptions. That is a concern for self-employed people who personally guarantee their business debts, and for accountants, lawyers, physicians and dentists who may face unlimited personal liability because they cannot incorporate their practices.

If you are in this position, you should consider for your RRSPs an insurance industry alternative to a term deposit or mutual fund. The reason: insurance money is generally protected by legislation against creditors pro-

Choosing Mutual Funds?

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When building a balanced RRSP portfolio, deciding which mutual funds are best for you is both important and challenging. Important because mutual funds can play a vital role in helping you reach financial freedom down the line. Challenging because there are so many quality funds to choose from these days. For expert, unbiased advice that could put you on the right track to your financial goals, talk to a Regal independent investment consultant today. Our consultation is free, our advice is invaluable.



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vided you name as your beneficiary your spouse, child, grandchild or parent. One caveat: you probably won't gain protection from creditors if you switch to insurance RRSs when you are already in financial difficulty.

This year, several mutual fund managers have teamed up with insurance companies to offer what are known as segregated funds which are in many ways indistinguishable from mutual funds. Managed by professional fund managers, they pool the savings of many individuals. Like mutual funds, segregated funds are available to meet a broad range of investment objectives ranging from income tied to the bond market to long-term growth through investing in Canadian and foreign stock markets. In many cases, these commission structures are virtual clones of mutual fund commission structures. You would amass at time of purchase to have your segregated fund registered as an RRSP (as opposed to holding it in a self-directed RRSP with assets that would not be credit-protected).

Segregated funds have some other fringe benefits. Depending on the fund, the insurance company guarantees a minimum of 75 or 100 per cent of your capital against loss provided that you hold the fund for a minimum of 10 years. However, every mutual fund offered in Canada that invests

in a broad range of equities and has been available for 10 or more years has a positive 10-year return.

More important is the death benefit that guarantees against loss if you should die before the policy matures, usually a term of 10 years. In that case, you get the higher of market value or the amount of capital you invested. There are generally some restrictions on death benefit payouts for people who invest in segregated funds at age 30 or older.

There are additional costs involved compared with mutual funds. Annual management fees and expenses will likely be about half of one percentage point higher than fees for a comparable mutual fund. That difference, which covers the insurance aspects of a segregated fund, is probably not significant for someone seeking a way of creditor-proofing assets.

You can purchase segregated funds only from people licensed to sell insurance. However, many mutual fund sales representatives and stockbrokers also have that license. ■

By Steven G. Meisner

Steven D. Kolman is the author of *SPSS: 2004 and Understanding Microsoft Funds*, and co-author of *Sage Advice: Choosing the Best Financial Advisor for You*.

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relatively low interest
rates and a favourable
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Edited by
BARBARA WICKENS

Sun, sand and celluloid

Toronto impresario **Dusty Cohl** runs the world's smallest film festival, and the only one where critics can literally go overboard in their enthusiasm—they take place on a cruise ship in the Caribbean. Although fewer than 300 movie buffs sign up for Cohl's 10-day cruise, which sets sail from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., on Jan. 25, it is an elite passenger list. This year's participants range from thumbed-up movie critic **Roger Ebert** to legendary screenwriter **Robert Towne** (Gershwin).

And they will be treated to world premieres of some major films, including **Robert Altman's** *The Gershwin*, **Alan Joel and Elton Coen's *The Big Lebowski*, and *Without Limits*, a biography featuring **Donald Sutherland** and written and directed by Towne.**

Cohl, a former real estate lawyer, has been a fan of film festivals since 1968, when he first started going to Cannes. He became a fixture on the terrace of that city's famed Carlton Hotel. And in 1976, with partner **William Marshall**, he cofounded what is now the Toronto International Film Festival. Since then, the Toronto event has grown enormously, and Cannes has become a massive, tedious snoozer. "What I liked about Cannes in the early days," says 48-year-old Cohl, "is that it was on a scale and a scope that you could still meet



Cohl's redemptive
cruise of movies
and the Caribbean

people. It'd never been on a cruise, so I thought, 'Maybe I can put these two things together.'"

In 1981, Cohl staged his first Floating Film Festival. The cruise, which now takes place every two years, has premiered such hits as 1962's *Hombre* and 1994's *Four Weddings and A Funeral* and *Deep Dreams*. It attracts a loyal cadre of veteran critics, including Ebert, whose "house by house" analyses of films on lower film-fest circuits has become the festival's most popular feature. Cohl, the son of an insurance salesman and an editor's secretary, is the cousin of *Rolling Stone's* first reporter, **Michael Cohl**. The Floating Film Festival is a small venture compared to the Stones' Baghdad-to-Babylon world tour, the biggest rock tour of 1987. But in his own way, Dusty Cohl has made the world his oyster.



Rolling Stone, Toronto



Rolling Stone, Toronto



Rolling Stone, Toronto

'Badder, balder'

In many ways, the 1980s belonged to **Loverboy**. The Vancouver rock group played major clubs around the world and sold millions of records on the strength of Top 10 hits such as *The Kid Is Not Dead* and *Working for the Weekend*. By 1986, however, things had turned sour. Dismissed by critics as faceless, generic rockers, the band took a break. Now, **Loverboy** has returned. Six of the first albums of new material in 10 years, and is hoping to stage a comeback. But, an lead singer **Mike Reno** points out, regaining acceptance is not easy. "It's like we've been put in par-



Here (second from right) with Loverboy—dumbbuck

tate and considered retired when we're only in our 30s," he says. "It's one of the toughest things I've ever had to deal with." *Loverboy* plans to persevere—although without the hair leather pants and the permed curls that were the band's trademark. "We're bigger, badder and balder," laughs Reno, who is 43. "But we're ready to rock."

Militia terror

Author Wilbur Dohl has often put himself on the line in his 73 years. As a teenager during the Second World War, he served as a fuel-burner gunner in 29 bombing raids over Europe. And for two years in the 1950s, he was **Marlin Luther King's** personal photographer—the only white man in the black activist's entourage—until three men in Mississippi cut his throat with a straight razor. But Dohl, who lives on St. Simons Island, Ga., says nothing was as frightening as what he learned while researching his eighth and newest novel, *Rage on Aik*. "To realistically portray a fictional group of Montana-based white supremacists, I did read some of the literature and interviewed former militia members. "I was shocked at how volatile the situation is," he says. "One day soon, one of these groups is going to declare war."

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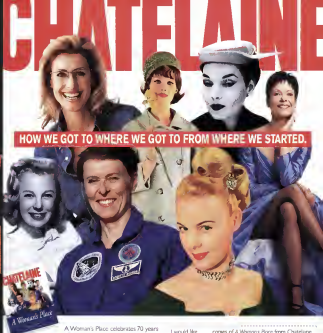
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Education

Campus cola wars

Beverage giants battle for exclusivity rights

BY JOE CHIDLEY

Imagine a town without Coke. At any convenience store or soda fountain, at every restaurant or bar or even at any vending machine within the city limits of the fictional place, inhabitants can buy only products sold by Pepsi-Cola Canada Ltd.—no Coca-Cola, no Frappuccino drinks (bottled by Coke), and no homegrown production of soft, independent companies. Now, envision another town just down the road where the same rules apply, only in reverse: Pepsi-Cola is it. Second in line? Well, for students at an ever-growing number of Canadian universities, the beginning of a single soft drink is becoming a fact of life. Forget about shopping malls and TV advertising: the two giants of the soft-drink industry have mobilized their forces on campuses, duking it out for the right to sell their products to a captive audience. And the winners in these cola wars are determined not by taste tests—but by who has the deeper pockets.

At the heart of the trend is a new willingness among many universities and school service providers to enter into so-called exclusivity agreements with Coke or Pepsi. Typically under such deals, the soft-drink company acquires the rights to be the sole provider of non-alcoholic beverages on campus. In exchange, the institution gets what all Canadian universities are desperate for: money. But while business from industry and universities fuel the soda agreements as "income in kind" money, many students are concerned that they are harbingers of increased corporate control over campuses. "Pepi is not the huge deal as the world," acknowledges Vivian Hoffmann, director of finance for the Alma Mater Society (student union) at the University of British Columbia. "But people see it as the edge of the wedge."

UBC, in fact, took the first—and most noteworthy—step at the exclusivity on coast in 1995, when it signed an with Coca-Cola Ltd. in exchange for a renewed \$5 million to \$80

million over the 10-year life of the agreement. The deal set off waves of protest among students, but the Alma Mater Society voted in favor of it—after it, too, received a share of the Coke money. Since then, a number of universities have followed UBC's example. Some to join the Coke camp is the University of Regina, currently finalizing a long-term exclusivity deal. In Edmonton, University of Alberta officials say they expect to announce an agreement with one of the major soft-drink companies

any time. Canada is considered a growth market: Canadiana drink about half the soft drinks, per capita, that Americans do. Exclusivity agreements are a way to secure younger customers who, according to industry executives, tend to take their beverage preferences with them as they age. But more to the point, says Shaw, such deals blend good business with good corporate citizenship. "This is enterprise at its best," he adds. "Everyone comes out with a win-win, because we provide funding which benefits the university, and they provide us access to consumers while at the end of the day—there's a third to satisfy."

Some students, however, are not as enthusiastic. Back in late 1996, News Services—the main food-and-beverage provider for Memorial University in St. John's, Nfld.—signed an exclusive distribution agreement with Coca-Cola, which put in the most competitive bid on a three-to-five-year contract. Memorial's 17,000 students still had access to Pepsi products: the student union building is not served by News, so it wasn't a question of Pepsi availability. But the Coke agreement set off what student president Keith Clarke calls "a kerfuffle." And the objections went beyond the limits of choice. Many students took offense that News signed the deal even though Coca-Cola had closed its Newfoundland bottling operations. Others, like Clarke, had deeper worries. "There were concerns about the morality of doing it, especially on a university campus," says Clarke.

"I mean, where exactly is this corporatization of universities going?" Pretty far, it seems, at least when it comes to exclusivity. At the University of Alberta, director of housing and food services David Bruch says that beverage distribution isn't the only form of single-sourcing they're considering. "UBC, too, is investigating exclusivity deals with banks and travel agencies. As the stakes get higher and the monies more substantial, universities and their corporate partners may well face a groundswell of resentment among students. At UBC, Hoffmann says it has already begun—sparked by the Coca-Cola deal in the first place. "It had a impacting impact on the way people think about things," she adds. "Students—back at the purpose of a university—want to know: what are we completely different things? But in the cash-strapped world of postsecondary education, maintaining that distinction might prove a luxury few universities can afford."

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Memorial's dilemma: where exactly is this corporatization of universities going?

Photo: David Bruch

Photo: David Bruch

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Health MONITOR

Cloning around



Seed, producing profit from producing 600 cloned babies a year

A Chaco physician, G. Richard Seed, says he is trying to raise money for a clinic that would begin cloning human babies for infertile couples before the U.S. Congress can enact a ban on the procedure. Cloning made headlines last February after scientists in Scotland listed genes from a sheep with a ewe's egg and implanted the altered egg in a surrogate mother sheep. The mother gave birth to a cloned lamb, called Dolly. As far as is known, adult humans have never been cloned. Seed said reporters he

three times, has seven children and six grandchildren. Dr. Harish Hansotia, chairman of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Chicago's West Memorial Hospital, described Seed as "a little crazy," but brilliant and capable of carrying out the proposed scheme. In Washington, a White House spokesman said President Bill Clinton was likely to call on Congress to ban experimentation as human cloning for at least five years. In that case, said Seed, his operations would move to Mexico or the Caribbean.

hopes ultimately to produce 500 cloned babies a year, and said that a number of people—not including himself—had volunteered to be cloned. Seed said the first babies would cost about \$1.4 million each to produce, but that the cost would ease, down dramatically after that, and cloning could become a profitable enterprise.

"Profit is a desirable word, profit is essential," he said. "Every human activity has to make a profit." Seed, whose name appears to be bogus, told reporters he has been married

Treatment and stress

The stress experienced by women who undergo breast cancer surgery can weaken their immune systems, according to a study by researchers at Ohio State University. A team led by psychologist Barbara Anderson studied 166 women between the ages of 31 and 64 who were operated on for breast cancer, and concluded that the stress they suffered made them more open to further illness, including problems caused by the chemotherapy and radiation treatment that often follow cancer surgery. The researchers, whose findings were published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, said that blood tests showed that the women who reported experiencing the most stress had the lowest levels of immune system agents that seek out and attack cancer cells.

From a humble frog, a super painkiller

A lethally toxic extract from the skin of an Ecuadorian frog has led to the development of a new painkiller that may be 200 times more powerful than aspirin. U.S. government researchers discovered the frog extract during the mid-2000s. But it was not until a decade later that they determined the extract's chemical structure and researchers at

Chicago-based Abbott Laboratories realized that it resembled an experimental drug they were testing, known as *ABT-594*. According to a study published in the *Journal of Science*, *ABT-594* now appears to be safe for humans, and without some of the disadvantages of morphine, which can suppress breathing and halt a patient's digestive process.

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Scene from
Kinnear's
masterpiece
locally

Scorsese gets spiritual

BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON

A film glances the guy who directed Joe Penni back to the streets of New York in *Goodfellas* and recently studying a man with a ballpoint pen in *Casino* does not seem like an obvious candidate to make a movie about the serenely convoluted life of Tibet's Dalai Lama. With *Kundun*, however, Martin Scorsese reveals quite another side to himself: "All my life I've been fascinated by characters who represent themselves primarily in violence," the 55-year-old director told *McKellin's* last week, "but in so doing I'm always conscious of the flip side of it. What about compassion?"

Even in Scorsese's most haunting excursions into secular torment, from *Mean Streets* to *Raging Bull*, the promise of spiritual redemption is always there. But in *Kundun* it fills the screen, and the series, with images of inner image of redemptive beauty in the hands of a less visionary director, it might seem more. More than one film-making virtuoso has gone trapping into Buddhism and lost his bearings: Bernardo Bertolucci faced delirium for casting Keaton Reeves as Siddhartha in *Lullaby* (1994), and more recently, Jean-Jacques Annaud cast Brad Pitt in *Seven Years in Tibet*, a disaster film turned the Dalai Lama into a melodrama for *The Secret Mission*. Also.

Kundun, however, is a spectacle for the

soul. It unfolds as a feast of visual poetry, an escalation of costume, color and ritual that casts a mystic spell, one so subtle and disarming that its magic is not fully apparent until the movie slips out of the theater to find the world strangely transformed: the most commonplace things suddenly seem imbued with grace.

Unheralded along by a haunting score from composer Philip Glass, much of the action consists of patient ritual, the handling of sacred objects, the chants, the intricate painting of mandalas out of colored sand—and their equally beautiful destruction with the whisk of a brush. That, even more than the Chinese invasion of Tibet, is the film's most moving, acting set of deliver—devotion shots of sand flying into rainbow wheels.

A dream almost eerily devoid of conflict, Scorsese's tale traces the life story of the 14th Dalai Lama from 1957, when monks discovered him as a two-year-old child—proclaiming him the reincarnated Buddha—to 1959, when the tightening of Chinese rule in Tibet finally forced him into exile at the age of 24. Unlike *Seven Years in Tibet*, which portrays the same character from the viewpoint of a Western tourist (see *Next* interview), Heinrich Harrer, *Kundun* tells its story

through the eyes of the Dalai Lama himself. And the movie is really about how he sees things—significantly one of his more modern ritual objects is a portable television, a concepter to Scorsese's lens.

Three actors play the Dalai Lama at various stages of growing up, and a fourth as an adult. The adult Dalai Lama consisted solely of the script, which comes from E.T. screenwriter (and Harrison Ford's wife) Melissa Mathison. The redoubt, again whole, is composed of Tibetan with no professional acting experience, several of them close to the Dalai Lama's family. They include scholars, monks, an expert in Tibetan medicine, a restaurant owner and a Madison Avenue art director. The acting occasionally falters, but the commitment of the performers is so palpable that

it hardly seems to matter.

"These Tibetans, they didn't act down and up," says E.T. "I think it would be fun to be an actor for a year." Mathison's "They came to represent their culture and their country. They had a lot at stake, and that made it easier for me. They set the tone of the movie. When you're with them and the costumes are right, they're moving a certain way, a poetic rhythm that I wasn't going to fight it. You have to give in. You say, 'OK, we don't have tradi-

tional cinematic tension, so what else will the dialogue tell?" In the editing, the director adds, "a spiritual resonance" begins to dictate a desirable narrative logic—"the film began to tell us how to cut it."

But Scorsese makes it clear that he did not jump on Hollywood's Buddhist bandwagon and undergo a conversion: "I'm still an American here in New York and I'm basically Catholic," he says. On the phone from his office in Manhattan, he certainly doesn't sound Buddhist. The voice is witty New York, slang off the coast phrases with a jagged cadence that still echoes the mean streets of his Italian-American childhood. "I grew up on an area that was pretty tough," he says. "I watched members of my family work a nightshift between organized crime and trying to earn a decent living. On the other hand, I'd find myself in church and hear that talk of compassion and tolerance and turning the other cheek."

Scorsese has had a longstanding interest in comparative religion. While shadowing his other religious movies, *The Last Temptation of Christ* (1986), in Morocco he explored the Muslim faith. And he returned to Morocco once again to shoot *Kasbah*, constructing detailed replicas of Tibetan architecture on a relatively modest budget of \$40 million. Filming in Tibet, of course, was strictly out of the question, and Chinese authorities even tried to persuade Disney to build the production abroad or, Scorsese, as well as Annaud, had originally hoped to shoot in India. Denied permission, Scorsese chose Morocco while Annaud shot *Seven Years in Tibet* in Argentina.

It seems odder reduction to have two movie crews made by its country. Based on two different countries. And the convergence of two Tibet movies—along with the privileged by Buddhist actor Richard Gere during Chinese President Jiang Zemin's North American visit last fall—has made Tibet a hot movie topic in recent months. But Scorsese says, "We really didn't want to be part of a trend. It took a while to get our heads made. We had to make *Gangs* first, and before you know it, there's another Tibet film being made." Adds the director, "It's really being out in Hollywood. The famous Richard Gere for 25 years, but we don't succumb."

And what's his message with Tibet helped get *Kundun* made. Scorsese says he finds the trend frustrating. "Quite honestly, there are certain elements of the press in America that become very cynical. They use the phrase 'Tibetan Chic.' It's shocking, because they wouldn't do it with other religions. They'd say that of the Pope if he came to America."

Although Scorsese has not adopted Buddhism, he has managed to embrace it. "It has changed me to a certain extent," he says. "I feel there's a certain peace of mind in the philosophy that might be of help ultimately." Then he adds, laughingly, "It doesn't mean you're not going to be aggravated on the movie set when it's going to miss and it's not supposed to." □

Kinks of Kensington

TWITCH CITY
(CBS, Mondays, 9:30 p.m.)

Once in a great while, a program comes along that almost crosses both in the CBS. Last year, Ken Finkleman's trash talk on TV news programming, *The Newsmen*, did it for many of us. Now, it's back to a wise politician CBS TV season—first distinction should be reserved for *Twitch City* (debuting on Feb. 19), a new series created by and starring Toronto filmmaker/actor Don McKellin. Directed by Bruce McDonald (*Good Guy*), *Twitch City* is a sort of *King of Kensington* meets *Time's Company* meets *First Person* meets *The God*. *God* meets—well, the pop culture references go on and on. And for viewers with a thirst for something different, it's a welcome addition. In its debut, *Twitch City*, in a way, touches it. But it's only six parts.

The hero (who is he? it's Curtis McKellin), a do-nothing slob with potential head who shares a dormitory with a character named Curtis (played by the frisky Nathan (David MacLean)). Curtis is the roommate from hell: he never takes the garbage, never cleans the dishes, and is generally really, really annoying.

His passion—in fact, his only occupation—is watching television, and his world is limited to the few feet between the tube and the sooty couch on which he perches. His last obsession? *The Rocky Show*, hosted by a rowdy Jerry Springer who's (played by ex-Killin' the Hall Bruce McCulloch), and featuring such topics as "I Slept with My Mother" and "My Pet, My Hero." Curtis is a lone friend in the world—a contemporary clerk who plays with a few videotapes by Cohen, Keen, Brando (*One Shot*)—describes him as being "like the Bopha Project, only more successful."

Nathan, meanwhile, has problems of his own. Privacy (and fear) of all, in Curtis's mind) is a cold lover. Nathan takes and retreats into a new high life, a scene on the first episode in his lecture on

the virtues of "The Wheel," a device of Dostoevian proportions that dictates who does which household chores down to the day and hour. The sole moral center in the small duo's dysfunctional little world is Nathan's girlfriend, Hope (Molly Parker), an out-of-work waitress who is both appalled and fascinated by Curtis's first series of scenes—in which he's depicted as a hunk of a blond from (M) Waxman, an a great laugh on his *King of Kensington* stint) with a bag of cat food, the couch points and Molly are left alone together in love, of a sort, blossoms in the blue light of the TV.

In some ways, it's like *Slackers* (a show about nothing)—or, more accurately, about



McKellin, Parker, a funny, bracing walk of city song

a man who does nothing. And yet, in a singular achievement in making the life of Curtis seem both plausible and compelling. But as good as it is, *Twitch City* is not for everybody. The show clearly isn't a young-adult demographic, and many will find it too slow and boring. But for the more neighborhood, Kensington Market, where both McKellin and McDonald have long lived, *Twitch City* is an occasional welcome and often surreal, it is as far removed from "Twitchy" as anything as the world series. But as an homage to television and the post-ironic, thirty-something generation raised by the show is a bracing walk of city song and the state of most other TV fare. As one character says of TV in general, *Twitch City* may be "99 percent cop"—but that's what makes it great."

JOE CHIDLEY

The lure of skiing the glaciers

This is 30 km north of Whistler, where the magnificent Coast Range rises to white-pinked heights as far as the eye can see. Half a dozen no less than a dozen eagles are soaring in the air, but there's nothing like going up to know that no one has ever sized on before.

The Chernish Coast Range, a childhood pleasure perhaps, but savored by grown men who have never grown up.

J. C. Jones and Patrick Callaghan and Darryl Knauss have this idea that there are a lot of important things Boston's running about who want to do what ordinary sloths can only dream about.

In early autumn, there is a stern order on the dairy dobbing with becomers: one creeps, like Groucho Marx, on loading and unloading. Frightening warnings are issued for avoidance. Each greased and buckhorn, strapped with a harness that beeps if the owner is inundated by snow, is taken for a lesson in deterring, by its beeps, an other beeper hidden under the snow. An Englishman beside me says: "I guess we didn't get the dog and the bread."

Edward, a hairier red accountant who has lived a Whistler for 26



Two high-tech shuttle service, the choppers whirling through the peaks to grab one exhausted group at the bottom of a glacier to transfer them to the top of the next. It's musical helicopters. "Send The name is Road, James Road."

Waiting at the yellow, crystal-sealer on one of the few flat spaces, there is suddenly descending down the valley the furious sound of that chopper blade. It's right out of *Apocalypse Now*. "Where's Wayne now that we really need him?" says grade Kent. The tide of the wilderness all we need

At lunch, high on the glacier, there are monster sandwiches, hot sugared tea and coolers. And clematis. The Japanese, as usual, have a specialty: mainly yellow and orange silk outfits: the more writing on them the better (mostly in English, most of it incomprehensible). More brand names than those Formula One Jacques Villeneuve walking advertisements.

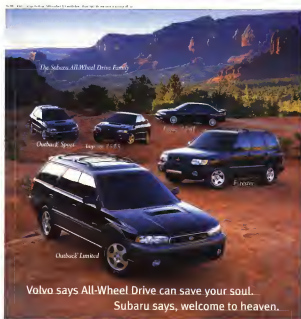
Grade Kent takes an expandable stick out of his pack. It measures 120 inches. He probes the snow—and doesn't hit bottom. 10 feet. One ruins-called Champagne. Another is Chardonnay. One is called Single Malt. It was too strong for this buckley. Their quest for the

They take care of you well. They should. It's \$450 a day per person (plus GST). There's a tall German man with a prominent nose. He has four teenage children with him, one of them looking like Jesus Christ with the currently trendy wavy chin beard. With tax, that's some \$2,500 on the hoof. Additional runs are 50 bucks a pop. They all take them, of course, not even asking Pops

"There's a crevasse nearby," warns guide Kent. "If you go in it, we won't find you again." One wants to obey guide Kent. Plot lines used to spend his winters in Chile. Now he spends those equivalent sunnys with *Yves Hek Sking*—helping film the first *N-Ya* movie that same time that year will feature those glimmering glacier slopes.

At the end of the day there is a gathering at Buffalo Bill in Whistler Village, where there is beer and a video, thanks to the official photographer, of your worst glacier moves, and an official Achievement Certificate testifying that you have conquered the glacier "just for the Hell of it."

Fath, Fath's the name. Dr. Fath



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